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An Open Letter to
Lee Freeman, Chief Constable, Humberside Police Headquarters
Priory Road Police Station
Priory Road, Hull HU5 5SF

Dear Chief Constable Freeman

Re Councillor Stephen Parnaby, Leader of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, criminal offences reported.

Please find enclosed four documents which show :- Councillor Parnaby's directorship of Arvato, page one of an agreement between Arvato, Bertelsman and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, page three of the Guarantee which states that "Arvato" which expression includes any Bertelsman Group Company and the fourth document shows the "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Regulations 2012" (2 pages).

The Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 1464 Local Government, which forms part of the Localism Act 2011, clearly states that non-disclosure of this directorship in his register of interests, as was the case for 12 years, is a criminal offence punishable by a five year ban from office and a fine of up to £5,000.

For a councillor to not divulge his company's involvement with his own council is serious enough but at least this would be subject to the checks and balances of other councillors and council officers. In Councillor Parnaby's case, as Council Leader, most other councillors particularly those elected after 2005 when it was briefly mentioned in a council meeting were either unaware or looking the other way until my letters on the subject in April last year, with Caroline Lacey, Chief Executive, who has been accused of lying to protect him

and Mathew Buckley , Monitoring Officer, who appears to be a deaf, mute, chocolate teapot, there are no such checks.

The legislation is clear and provides no ambiguity, if a councillor is a director of a company which supplies services or goods to his own council then this must be declared in his register of interests, failure to do so is a serious criminal offence. The law exists in order to provide openness and transparency in a situation which can easily facilitate corruption, with Councillor Parnaby`s previous well documented history of dubious deals and his numerous breaches of the Councillors Code of Conduct it is important that the public, who have been misled for 12 years, obtain some action in order to restore some faith in the system prior to the forthcoming elections next year.

I believe that following my first letter on this matter, 24th April last year, this criminal offence was in fact reported to your Constabulary by some ERYC councillors acting on behalf of local taxpayers and I understand they were informed at that time that there were not the resources to investigate this serious matter.

It is correct to say that the necessary full investigation of ancillary matters would entail some resources however I believe the four simple documents provided here are themselves evidence enough to prosecute the initial offences. A private prosecution could be brought for these offences which occurred over a twelve year period however other more serious offences can only be ruled out with an investigation by your force.

The reason for this letter is because following many months of ERYC refusing to disclose certain parts of the contract between Arvato and the ERYC, these documents are now to hand thanks to the threat of contempt of court by the Information Commissioner. These provide further information which I believe requires investigating. These are circuitous and manifold and therefore readily facilitate corruption and only a full investigation in the interests of the taxpaying public will suffice. The Information Commissioner`s Decision Notice requiring the release of these documents to me, coincides with Councillor Parnaby announcing that he would be stepping down. He obviously realised that the game was up.

These documents are complex and extensive with each reading opening up other questions. For example the £800,000 fund provided by Bertelsmann (majority shareholder), the secondment of executive staff including possibly a Chief Executive Officer

from ERYC to Arvato, of which Councillor Parnaby has been the chairman in alternative years and the “remuneration and travelling accommodation and other expenses and other benefits to which such executives shall be entitled shall be reimbursed by the company” by way of a monthly invoice from ERYC.

Since making a formal complaint on this matter with Caroline Lacey last year she has written to me stating that Councillor Parnaby is not and never has been a director of Arvato Ltd and further there are no contracts between the Council and Arvato Ltd. and that he had never received any income or expenses from any Arvato company. Firstly these documents prove that he cannot hide himself in the various Arvato companies as the documents refer to them as one and secondly if he has never received any remuneration we must assume that even as Chairman he has never actually done any work. If this is so why is he still employed by Arvato especially as the contract with his council finished in 2013.

Why was this £800,000 provided to a company where even the Chairman doesn't do any work We need to know who at County Hall has received any monies from being involved with Bertelsman or Arvato (or **Avarto** as the company documents often refer to, which proves that they are just as confused as they want us to be). The required monthly invoices would be a start. It is essential that this £800,000 from a company which, at the same time, received a £14M per annum contract, from the ERYC, is legitimised and proved not to be just a huge Piggy Bank for the use of the elite at County Hall.

Should a private prosecution be brought to deal with the simple matter of non-disclosure, it is likely that, under cross examination, some new offences could be discovered from the evidence and this would undoubtedly result in a degree of criticism of your forces lack of action if this was the case.

Yours sincerely

Peter Robinson

Copies:- Commissioner Keith Hunter, Media, Government Ministers, MPs, ERYC Councillors.