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Former chairman of the Paedophile Information Exchange has Labour Party membership suspended

Tom O'Carroll has membership suspended amid outcry from Labour MPs after it emerged the notorious paedophile joined the party last year



A Labour rosette Photo: PA



By Ben Riley-Smith, Political Correspondent

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Tom O'Carroll, the former chairman of the Paedophile Information Exchange, has been suspended from the **Labour Party** after it emerged he had become a member in recent months.

Labour MPs had expressed their shock and outrage after reports the notorious paedophile who has campaigned for legalising sex with children had joined the party.

Tom Watson, the deputy Labour leader, said O'Carroll was "not welcome" in the party as other MPs demanded to know how he slipped through the membership process.

A statement from a Labour Party spokesman released on Tuesday morning



The Telegraph

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said: "Tom O'Carroll has been suspended from the Labour Party."

Tom O'Carroll profile

The decision came after **The Times** reported O'Carroll joined the party after Jeremy Corbyn became Labour leader in September.

His victory triggered a surge in applications with tens of thousands of new members joining after he succeeded Ed Miliband.

O'Carroll was given a two-year jail term in 1981 for conspiracy to corrupt public morals and gained notoriety for campaigning for legalising sex with children.

His website reportedly read in 2014: "I have been at odds with 'the dominant narrative' of sexual morality over the last several decades, especially as regards children's sexual self-determination and paedophilia.



Labour MP Tom Watson Photo: REUTERS/David McNew

"My aim here is to present a discourse of resistance. That probably sounds grim, but humour and cheerfulness are my weapons of choice, along with reason and research."

Labour had initially refused to address reports O'Carroll had become a party member, saying: "We do not comment on individual membership of the Labour Party."

However the suspension came after a wave of anger from Labour MPs on social media on Tuesday morning.

Mr Watson said: "Just picking up on the Tom O'Carroll story. Have to verify the facts but he is not welcome in the Labour Party and nor are his views."

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John Mann described the Dickens dossier as "intriguing to say the least" Photo: PA

John Mann, who has campaigned against child abuse, said: "I led the calls this morning for Tom O'Carroll to be immediately kicked out of the Labour Party. Which local branch let him in?"

John Woodcock, the Barrow and Furness MP, said on Twitter: "Dismayed Mr O'Carroll joined party in Barrow. I've written to Labour general secretary demanding he barred for life."

Asked about his membership by The Times, O'Carroll said: "I don't really think I have any comment on this." He reportedly did not answer further questions.

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