

Evidence Suggests Lord Coe Knew About Doping Corruption

A senior Conservative MP has suggested that the position of Lord Sebastian Coe as the IAAF president could be at risk over “very, very disturbing” allegations about his knowledge of the [doping problems](#) of Russia.

Jesse Norman, chairman of the culture, media and sport select committee, said the “jury is out” on whether he has confidence in Sebastian Coe in his present role. Norman remarked he expects the Tory peer to make a return before the committee to answer fresh questions and issue an apology to the parliament among the potential measures available if it is shown he misled parliament.

Tory MP Damian Collins said that the position of Coe as president of the IAAF will be ‘impossible’ unless he can provide a ‘robust explanation’. Collins added he thinks this is really significant information on the evidence about doping in Russia that he was sent the detailed allegations four months before the evidence became public and yet denied any knowledge.

Norman told [BBC Radio 4’s Today program](#) he would say it is almost certain that we will want to have Lord Coe back in front of the committee. Norman added competence is one thing, confidence is another thing and part of that would also be to assess whether he is giving the IAAF the leadership that he has promised and also commented that may all be swept away if the committee comes to the view that there’s been some issue of misleading Parliament here. Norman also said it was very disturbing that an email sent to Coe had detailed allegations about a Russian marathon champion asked to pay £360,000 to senior athletics officials to have her drugs offences covered up. Coe, now the president of the International Association of Athletic Federations, received the email outlining the [doping scandal](#) in August 2014.

This was after an investigation by the BBC's Panorama program claimed that Coe might have misled the parliament in 2015 about when and what he knew about the Russian doping scandal. The BBC also gathered evidence that strongly suggests Sebastian Coe turned Papa Massata Diack, the disgraced former official at the centre of the corruption scandal, to help him win the presidential election.

Meanwhile, the IAAF has said Coe was right to pass on information to the ethics commission he received in 2014 about allegations of a plot to blackmail a Russian athlete over blood results. The world governing body of athletics said the panel told Sebastian Coe it was already aware of the allegations that were being “actively investigated”, so left the case with it. The athlete-in-question was Liliya Shobukhova, the former London marathon winner who was asked to pay €450,000 (£360,000) to officials for concealing her doping offences and allowing her to run in the London Olympics. The Russian athlete was eventually sanctioned for doping offences and a sum of €300,000 (£240,000) was repaid to her from an account belonging to Black Tidings, the

company in Singapore controlled by a business associate of Papa Massata Diack and also now the focus of a criminal investigation being conducted by the French financial authorities.