

New #1

Tom Holland's Avengers bonus sent to Tom Hollander in error

By Yasmin Rufo

BBC News

It is not every day a million dollars shows up in your account by accident.

But The White Lotus star Tom Hollander has revealed it happened to him when he received a paycheque intended for Spiderman actor Tom Holland.

Speaking to Late Night host Seth Meyers, Hollander said: "We were with the same agents briefly and people in the accounts department got confused.

"It's been very difficult, because you know I was here first but he's enormously famous," he added jokingly.

Explaining how he discovered the accidental payment, Hollander said he was watching a friend in the theatre who was being paid £300.

"I sat smugly in the audience having just done a BBC show for £30,000 or something which was going to get me through the next year or so, and I was thinking, 'Well, this is marvellous, I'm very prosperous.'"

Tom Hollander won a Bafta for his supporting role in the BBC's drama The Night Manager

At the interval, he checked his emails and saw one containing a payslip labelled as "Box office bonus for The Avengers".

"It was an astonishing amount of money," the 56-year-old told Meyers. "It was not his salary. It was his first box office bonus. Not the whole box office bonus, the first one. And it was more money than I'd ever [seen]. It was a seven-figure sum."

"My feeling of smugness disappeared," he added.

Holland, who is dating Euphoria star Zendaya, has played Spiderman in six Marvel Cinematic Universe films.

Hollander said: "I obviously don't actually get mistaken for him, but in non-visual contexts, I'm mistaken for him all the time.

"Talking to utility companies... or when I'm introduced to somebody's very excited, then confused, then disappointed children."

While similar names can cause confusion, even more mix-ups have occurred when two celebrities have the same name.

In November 2022, physicist Brian Cox and actor Brian Cox told the BBC **how their identical names have caused confusion**.

The pair said they each often arrive somewhere to find that people were expecting "the other" Brian Cox.

Physicist Cox even said he had to use a different name when a hotel told him that their system couldn't handle two separate bookings under the same name.

New #2

Japan: Man sentenced to death for Kyoto anime fire which killed 36

By Frances Mao and Shaimaa Khalil

in Singapore and Tokyo

A Japanese man has been sentenced to death for an arson attack at a Kyoto animation studio in 2019 which killed 36 people and injured dozens more.

The incident, one of Japan's deadliest in recent decades, killed mostly young artists and shocked the anime world.

Shinji Aoba, 45, pleaded guilty to the attack but his lawyers had sought a lighter sentence on grounds of "mental incompetence".

Judges rejected this however, ruling that Aoba knew what he was doing.

"I have determined that the defendant was not mentally insane or weak at the time of the crime," Chief Judge Masuda said on Thursday at Kyoto District Court.

"The death of 36 people is extremely serious and tragic. The fear and pain of the deceased victims was indescribable," Japanese broadcaster NHK reported him saying.

Many of the animation staff - young artists - were killed after being trapped on the upper floors of the studio as the fire spread.

The attack was one of the deadliest cases in recent decades and sparked national mourning in Japan. The country's public and media have followed the case closely.

- **How many countries still have the death penalty?**

Prosecutors had demanded the death penalty for Aoba, saying he was motivated to attack the studio after believing his work had been stolen. He said Kyoto Animation - known as KyoAni- had plagiarised a novel he entered into their contest.

In July 2019, he burst into the studio during a work day, splashing petrol on the ground floor and setting it alight while repeatedly shouting "Drop dead".

He later said during his guilty plea in September 2023 that he did not think so many people would die.

"I felt I had no other option but to do what I did," he said at the time.

"I feel tremendously sorry and the feeling includes a sense of guilt."

Aoba himself suffered burns to over 90% of his body in the fire, and was only arrested after he had recovered from operations.

But they said he was not controlled by such delusions and had full capacity and understanding of his actions.

On Thursday, the judge read out a lengthy reasoning with victim testimonies before announcing the verdict. More than half of the animation studio's 70-strong workforce was killed in the event, and another 32 injured.

"Some of them saw their colleagues engulfed in flames, and some of them are suffering from psychological effects, and they are tormented by feelings of guilt and remorse," said Judge Masuda.

Families of the victims were seen in the court room, with many visibly emotional as the judge read out the details of Aoba's crime, NHK reported.

The outlet reported that Aoba kept his head bowed as the judge read out the death penalty sentence.

Japan retains capital punishment for its most serious crimes, like multiple murders. Those convicted typically remain on death row for years, or even decades. The death penalty is conducted by hanging.

The KyoAni studio in Kyoto is a beloved institution, known for producing films and graphic novels that are well-regarded by fans as well as critics - including K-On! and The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya.

New #3

The reopening of the La Tour d'Argent in Paris signals a new chapter in a spot with a very long and storied legacy.

By Vivian Song 11th January 2024

The mythology around one of Paris's most famous restaurants, [La Tour d'Argent](#), is legendary and far-reaching. The restaurant in the 5th arrondissement overlooks the Seine River and the [Notre Dame Cathedral](#), and is often described as "the oldest restaurant in Paris" with a history that dates to 1582. It is famous for its signature duck dish, which is prepared theatrically in the dining room, and its 300,000-bottle wine cellar.

If the restaurant's claims are to be believed, it's here that King Henry III picked up a fork for the first time and popularised its use in France.

Its reputation has attracted a long list of powerful and influential diners throughout history, including Queen Elizabeth II, Theodore Roosevelt and John F Kennedy, as well as Charlie Chaplin, Salvador Dalí, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. The 2007 Pixar animated film [Ratatouille](#) was also inspired in part by La Tour d'Argent.

So when the restaurant reopened in August 2023, after a 15-month renovation, it caused a major stir among the city's gastronomic glitterati, most of whom wrote glowingly about its renaissance, which now includes a ground-floor bar, luxury hotel suite, rooftop terrace and an open kitchen in the dining room.

But it also presents a renewed opportunity to reexamine some of the lore associated with the restaurant, which media reports have repeated unchallenged for decades – much to the wrath and indignation of some food historians.

The last time La Tour d'Argent closed for renovations was in 1936, when then owner André Terrail moved the restaurant from the ground floor to the sixth floor of the building on Quai de la Tournelle where panoramic, floor-to-ceiling windows

offered sweeping views of the city. More than 85 years later, his grandson, also named André, has spearheaded a new chapter in the restaurant's long and storied legacy.

"Our number one goal is to extend the Tour d'Argent experience," the younger Terrail said in an interview in the restaurant's new Bar des Maillets d'Argent, a polo-themed cognac bar in honour of his father and predecessor Claude, who was captain of the Paris polo team.

Our number one goal is to extend the Tour d'Argent experience

In the restaurant's "hall of fame", a selection of autographs and photos of some of the restaurant's most illustrious guests includes a small illustration of Ratatouille signed by director Brad Bird, who spent days at the restaurant sketching the dining room (Terrail recognised the lamps, cheese trolley and maitre d's outfit in the film as their own).

An electricity bill for the Notre Dame Cathedral from 1955 also tells the story of how Terrail's father Claude paid for the landmark's lighting bill at a time when the cathedral remained dark at night, in order to give his guests a nocturnal spectacle.

During my visit, Terrail was stopped regularly by diners who greeted him by first name as though they knew him personally, and he reciprocated with the graciousness of a host who had been groomed to enter the hospitality business his whole life. Until the age of 30, Terrail lived in the building and was a fixture: as a child, every Sunday he and his parents would sit at the corner table and tuck into a simple roast chicken lunch – a family ritual that held deeper meaning.

"My father would take me around, greeting the guests and would make sure I got a feel for what was awaiting me later," said the third-generation owner.

Because as much as the restaurant is a Parisian landmark, it's also a family affair. Like the polo-themed bar for his father Claude, the new 150-sq-m, €8,900/night luxury suite, L'Appartement, honours the memory of his grandfather's hotelier roots, Terrail said. Along with the restaurant, the elder Terrail helped open the hotel George V, now the luxury [Four Seasons George V](#). It was also where his grandmother Augusta Burdel lived for a time.

In the upstairs dining room where chef Yannick Franques conducts his brigade in the new open kitchen, the signature dish, *canard au sang* (which translates to bloody duck) is prepared the same theatrical way the restaurant's former owner, Frédéric Delair, made it in the 19th Century.

In keeping with tradition, the seared duck is held aloft with a fork and filleted tableside, and must not touch the plate as it's carved, the way Delair did it. The carcass is then crushed in the famous duck press, and the "bloody" juices reduced with cognac and port wine into a rich and dark sauce.

THE NUMBERED DUCKS

A Frédéric Delair tradition that remains unchanged is the numbering of every duck served at the restaurant, a clever business concept that was ahead of its time for conveying the idea that every meal is one of a kind. Guests leave with an embossed certificate bearing the duck's unique serial number as a souvenir. Franklin D Roosevelt reportedly consumed duck number 112,151 in 1929, while duck number 328 can be traced to 1890 and the dinner plate of Prince of Wales, future Edward VII. By the end of October 2023, more than 1,117,800 ducks had been served.

Perhaps equally important as the canard au sang is the restaurant's 300,000-bottle wine collection, which includes a few historical pre-Revolution wines valued at more than €25,000. During World War Two, Claude famously saved his wine cellar from the Nazis by erecting a brick wall to hide the bottles.

It's tales like these that have helped build up the mythology of La Tour d'Argent. But two major claims – both of which have been central to the restaurant's fame – have been called into question by historians.

The first sticking point is the oft-repeated title of La Tour d'Argent as the oldest restaurant in Paris.

"That's a tall tale, it's not true at all, it's wrong," said Patrick Rambourg, a researcher at the Université Paris Cité and author of [History of Gastronomic Paris, from the Middle Ages to the Present Day](#). "The notion of a restaurant as an establishment in the 16th Century doesn't work," he said. "From the sources I've seen, I don't see any mention of the Tour d'Argent until the 18th Century."

For starters, Rambourg points out that the Western restaurant as we know it today (historians say the world's first restaurants actually popped up in China as early as 1100 AD) only made its first appearance in the 1760s and takes issue with the semantics often attached to the brand: the Tour d'Argent can't be the oldest restaurant in Paris because there was no such thing in the 16th Century, he said. In a 1969 interview on French TV, Claude Terrail addressed this discrepancy and described the site as an inn or tavern when it opened in the 16th Century, as "restaurants came along a lot later."

But that still doesn't satisfy experts in regards to their second point of contention: the claim that Kings Henry III and Henry IV were patrons and that it was here, in its iteration as an inn or tavern, that Henry III introduced France to forks for the first time.

As Claude Terrail tells it in the same 1969 interview, Henry III was fed up with seeing members of his royal court soil their clothing and high collars, or ruffs, after every meal – an unavoidable consequence of eating with their hands. So he ordered a silversmith to make a dozen forks (already in use in Italy at the time) and hosted a dinner at the Tour d'Argent, where he introduced wider France to the fork.

But Rebecca Spang, author of [The Invention of the Restaurant: Paris and Modern Gastronomic Culture](#), points out that inns and taverns were patronised by travellers like religious pilgrims or merchants who had no other food options – not the elite and much less French royalty. "It wasn't a luxurious experience," she said.

For Rambourg, the story also fails to hold up for similar reasons. "Why would a king from that time stay at an inn or hostel in Paris when they had their own royal residences and palaces in the city?" he asked. Furthermore, Spang points out that the restaurant claims to have opened during the French Wars of Religion between Catholics and Protestants (1562-1598), when millions died during major upheaval, and questions the likelihood of French royalty staying in an unprotected rustic inn at this time.

For his part, the current owner André Terrail stands by the claims, saying that the writings in their possession date the building – whether it was a hostel or an inn – to 1582. "Sometimes, history is transferred by word of mouth," he said. "But there's probably as much chance that it's true as it is false."

But Hélène Pietrini, managing director of the fine dining guide and global restaurant ranking [La Liste](#), dismissed the focus on authenticating dates and superlative titles.

"I'm not on a museum tour. I'm eating a piece of French history and gastronomy," she said. "You don't necessarily have to look at how many centuries a restaurant has existed, but instead what they represent in France's culinary heritage. And the Tour d'Argent is timeless."

BBC.com's [World's Table](#) "smashes the kitchen ceiling" by changing the way the world thinks about food, through the past, present and future.

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New #4

Darya Trepova: Russian woman jailed for 27 years for cafe bomb killing

By Robert Greenall

BBC News

Russian woman Darya Trepova has been sentenced to 27 years in jail for the killing of pro-war blogger Vladlen Tatarsky last April.

Tatarsky was killed by a bomb in a statuette Trepova gave him, as he was about to give a talk in St Petersburg. Dozens were injured in the blast.

Trepova, 26, denied the charges, saying she thought the statuette contained a listening device.

She said she had acted on the orders of a Ukrainian contact, and was set up.

The sentence is one of the harshest imposed on a woman in Russia's history.

The attack on Tatarsky, 40, (real name Maxim Fomin) happened on 2 April, 2023.

Trepova was charged with "a terrorist act carried out by an organised group causing intentional death" and the "illegal possession of explosive devices by an organised group".

Russian investigators have accused Ukraine of being behind the attack, and Ukrainian officials have neither confirmed nor denied this.

- **What clues does new Russian bomb footage reveal?**
- **Who are Russia's war bloggers and why are they popular?**

But Trepova gave evidence in court that she was following orders from a man in Ukraine known as Gestalt (German for "shape"). His identity is not known.

She said she made contact with him via Ukraine-based journalist Roman Popkov.

She is opposed to Russia's war in Ukraine and had been seeking to go there to work as a journalist.

Trepova said that under Gestalt's instruction she gained Tatarsky's trust, introducing herself to him as an art student named Anastasia Kriulina and attending his talks.

In March Gestalt sent her the statuette, she said, assuring her that it contained a wiretap and a tracker. She said she expressed concern that it might contain a bomb.

"I feel great pain and shame that my gullibility and my naivety led to such catastrophic consequences. I didn't want to hurt anyone," Trepova told the court this week, quoted by Reuters.

"I feel especial pain and shame that a terrorist act was carried out by my own hands."

Born in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, he said he joined Russian-backed separatists when they released him from jail, where he was serving time for armed robbery.

He was part of a pro-Kremlin military blogger community that has taken on a relatively high-profile role since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022.

Tatarsky was among those who have gone so far as to criticise the Russian authorities, slamming the military and even President Vladimir Putin for setbacks on the battlefield.

But he was posthumously awarded the Order of Courage by Mr Putin.

Trepova's sentencing comes just after another controversial pro-war figure, the former commander of Russian-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine **Igor Girkin**, was sentenced to four years in jail for "calls to carry out extremist activities".

New #5

Kenneth Eugene Smith: US inmate faces first nitrogen execution after losing last-minute appeals

By Brandon Drenon & Tom Bateman

BBC News, Washington

An Alabama death row inmate is expected to become the first person in the US to be executed with nitrogen gas, after losing last-minute appeals.

The US Supreme Court and a lower appeals court declined to block what Kenneth Eugene Smith's lawyers called a "cruel and unusual" punishment.

Opponents say using nitrogen could cause unnecessary suffering, and a leak could harm people present in the room.

Smith, 58, was convicted in 1989 of murdering Elizabeth Sennett.

Alabama has 30 hours to carry out the execution, which involves pumping nitrogen gas through a mask, from Thursday at 0600 GMT (0100 ET).

He told the BBC earlier this week that the wait felt like torture.

Smith would be the first person to be put to death by this method in the US and, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, anywhere in the world.

- **US man says wait for nitrogen execution like 'torture'**
- **How many countries still have the death penalty?**
- **LISTEN: Death Row: The Hunt for Lethal Drugs**

Lawyers for the inmate, who has been on death row since 1996, told the BBC on Wednesday night that they were lodging another appeal to the nation's top court in the hope of a last minute reprieve.

Breathing pure nitrogen without oxygen causes the cells to break down and leads to death. Alabama said in a court filing that they expect him to lose consciousness within seconds and die in a matter of minutes.

But its use has been denounced by some medical professionals, who warn it could cause a range of catastrophic mishaps, ranging from violent convulsions to survival in a vegetative state.

Alabama and two other US states have approved the use of nitrogen hypoxia as an alternative method of execution because the drugs used in lethal injections have become more difficult to find, contributing to a fall in the number of executions nationally.

Alabama already tried to execute Smith by lethal injection two years ago but were unable to raise a vein before the state's death warrant expired.

She was beaten with a fireplace implement and stabbed in the chest and neck, and her death was staged to look like a home invasion and burglary. Her husband Charles Sennett, a debt-ridden preacher, had orchestrated the scheme to collect insurance money. He killed himself as investigators closed in. Smith's fellow hitman, John Forrest Parker, was executed in 2010.

The UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights has said gassing Smith could amount to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and called for a halt.

Smith's lawyers lodged a challenge with the Supreme Court, arguing that putting convicts through multiple execution attempts violates the Eighth Amendment of the US Constitution, which protects against "cruel and unusual" punishment.

On Wednesday, the justices declined to hear the appeal and denied his request to halt the execution. No justice publicly dissented from the ruling.

Smith also made a separate legal challenge to the lower 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals, where he contested the legality of Alabama's nitrogen gas protocol.

But that court also rejected the inmate's request for an injunction in a ruling on Wednesday evening.

Smith's lawyers said they would again appeal to the Supreme Court.

His legal team argue the nitrogen gas method is "recently released and untested", leaving him at risk of choking on his own vomit.

State Attorney General Steve Marshall previously called it "perhaps the most humane method of execution ever devised".

Smith's spiritual adviser, Reverend Jeff Hood, will be present in the room when the execution happens. He told the BBC he believes he will be in danger if the nitrogen leaks.

On Wednesday, prison officials escorted Rev Hood for a "walk-through" of the execution chamber, as required by Alabama's execution protocol.

He told the BBC afterwards that he saw oxygen-level meters unplugged on a ledge inside the room, which he described as "unbelievably disturbing, it feels like you are at the centre of evil".

"I asked 'what's the safety plan?' and they said they didn't want to get into it, they couldn't get into it," he said.

"Once again we're back at this place of having to rely on these people who have botched three executions in the last [few] years, he said. "It's absolutely a terrifying thing to think that your life hangs in the balance with these guys".

Rev Hood said he had requested that Alabama's Governor Kay Ivey be present in the chamber during the execution to demonstrate her confidence in its safety, but had not received a response.

"We have somebody who is championing this type of execution in the governor and yet she is unwilling to get her hands dirty," he said.

The BBC has approached Ms Ivey's office for comment regarding this and the latest accusations over safety.

Alabama has one of the highest per capita execution rates in the US and has 165 people currently on death row.

Since 2018, the state has been responsible for three botched attempts at lethal injection in which the condemned inmates survived. The failures led to an internal review that largely placed blame on the prisoners themselves.

New #6

How many countries still have the death penalty, and how many people are executed?

A convicted murderer in the US is set to become the first person in the country to be executed using nitrogen gas.

A Japanese man has also been **sentenced to death by hanging for an arson attack which killed 36 people.**

The number of executions is rising globally, despite many countries abolishing the use of capital punishment.

How many countries use the death penalty?

According to **the latest figures from Amnesty International**, in 2022:

- 55 countries had the death penalty
- Nine of these countries had the death penalty only for the most serious crimes, such as multiple killing or war crimes
- 23 had the death penalty, but had not used it for 10 years

How many people are executed every year?

The Amnesty International figures are compiled from official statistics, media reports and information passed on from individuals sentenced to death, and their families and representatives.

The organisation believes that China is the world's leading executioner, killing thousands of people every year. But because China does not release details about its use of the death penalty, it is impossible to provide reliable numbers.

Besides China, Amnesty International recorded 883 executions worldwide in 2022, the highest number of executions since 2017.

However, it is much lower than the figures for 1988, 1989 or 2015, when more than 1,500 people were executed in a single year.

Amnesty International also says at least 2,016 death sentences were imposed in 2022, across 52 countries.

Globally, it believes at least 28,282 people were under sentence of death at the end of 2022.

Many prisoners spend years or even decades on death row before their execution.

- **Global executions at highest rate for five years**

Which countries use the death penalty the most?

Twenty countries executed people in 2022, compared with 18 in 2021.

Apart from China, the countries which executed the most people were Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the US.

Amnesty says it recorded at least three public executions in Iran in 2022. It says Iran also executed at least five people for offences carried out when they were under 18 years old.

How has the number of executions carried out in different countries changed?

The Amnesty International report highlights 11 countries in the world which persistently execute people every year.

These include China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the US, Vietnam and Yemen. Amnesty International also believes that North Korea is "likely to be using the death penalty at a sustained rate", but cannot independently verify this.

Saudi Arabia's execution figure in 2022 was the highest for 30 years.

Five countries - Bahrain, Comoros, Laos, Niger and South Korea - sentenced people to death in 2022, having not used the death penalty for several years.

Although the number of executions in the US has risen since 2021, it remains well below the 1999 peak.

How many people are executed for drug offences?

Amnesty International says there were 325 executions for drug offences worldwide in 2022 including:

- 255 in Iran
- 57 in Saudi Arabia
- 11 in Singapore

In 2023, Singapore **executed the first woman for almost 20 years**. Saridewi Djaman was convicted of trafficking heroin in 2018.

How many countries have abolished the death penalty?

The death penalty is not used at all in 112 countries, compared with 48 in 1991.

Six countries abolished the death penalty either fully, or partially, in 2022.

Four - Kazakhstan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Central African Republic - scrapped it completely.

Equatorial Guinea and Zambia said it would only be used for the most serious crimes.

In April 2023, Malaysia's parliament **also voted to remove the mandatory death penalty for 11 serious crimes**, including murder and terrorism.

Ghana's parliament **voted to abolish the death penalty** altogether in July 2023.

How do countries around the world carry out the death penalty?

Saudi Arabia was the only country to list beheading as the method of execution in 2022.

Other methods included hanging, lethal injection and death by shooting.

The US state of Alabama is due to execute a convicted murderer called Kenneth Smith using nitrogen gas.

He will be the **first person to be put to death by this method anywhere in the world**, according to the US-based Death Penalty Information Center.

Mr Smith's lawyers called the untested method a **"cruel and unusual" punishment**. Alabama and two other US states approved the use of nitrogen because the drugs which are more commonly used in lethal injections have become more difficult to find.

Drug shortages have contributed to the fall in the use of the death penalty across the US.

- **The secret hunt for lethal drugs used in US executions**
- **A third of US executions botched in 2022 - report**

New #7

Top Arizona Republican quits over leaked tape offer to Kari Lake

By Max Matza

BBC News

Arizona's Republican party chairman has quit over a leaked tape in which he is heard apparently trying to induce a Senate candidate to quit the race.

On the audio, Jeff DeWit asks Kari Lake if there is "any number" that would make her take a political "pause" as "very powerful people" want her out.

In his resignation letter, he denied any bribery and said Ms Lake had released a "selectively edited" tape.

Ms Lake narrowly lost her 2022 race for Arizona governor.

The right-wing firebrand and ally of Donald Trump is now running for the seat currently occupied by independent Senator Kyrsten Sinema.

Arizona Republicans have long worried that Ms Lake's combative style of politics may turn off moderate voters and lose the race, potentially costing Republicans control of the Senate.

In the tape, recorded during a meeting at her house 10 months ago, Mr DeWit tells Ms Lake there are "very powerful people that want to keep you out".

He does not name them, but says they are "back East".

"I'll tell you what I'm offering you," he says, suggesting that she could be put on the payroll of a company in exchange for a two-year "pause".

He repeatedly asks her not to tell anyone about their conversation.

"Is there a number at which...", he says, before Ms Lake interrupts.

"I could be bought? No," she replies.

When Mr DeWit says he has doubts that Mr Trump will win the presidential election because of fundraising issues in the state, she disagrees.

"This is about defeating Trump and I think that's a bad, bad thing for our country," she argues.

Ms Lake, who had called for Mr DeWit to resign after the tape emerged, welcomed his departure.

"We want ethical leaders," she posted on X on Wednesday. "Time to root-out the corruption at ALL levels - both inside and outside our party."

Mr DeWit, a former state treasurer, worked for Mr Trump's campaigns in 2016 and 2020.

In his resignation letter on Wednesday, he said that Ms Lake's team had delivered him an ultimatum - "resign or face the release of a new, more damaging recording".

He said that since their conversation, Ms Lake "has been on a mission to destroy me".

"Contrary to accusations of bribery, my discussions were transparent and intended to offer perspective, not coercion," he says.

Mr DeWit is not the only Republican state party leader to leave office this month. Florida's chairman was voted out by party members after allegations of sexual assault.

Christian Ziegler was cleared by police of rape last week, **but could still face a voyeurism charge.**

In Michigan, Republicans voted to remove Kristina Karamo as party chair due to infighting and fundraising issues.