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As Starmer faces backlash over Natalie Elphicke's defection, another bombshell...

TURNCOAT MP ASKED MINISTER TO PULL STRINGS FOR HUSBAND'S SEX ABUSE TRIAL

A LABOUR MP who defected from the Tories has been accused of trying to exert 'improper' influence over her ex-husband's sexual assault trial by personally lobbying the Justice Secretary.

Natalie Elphicke, whose switch to Sir Keir Starmer's party last week triggered a fierce Labour backlash, faces claims that she complained to Sir Robert Buckland about the judge who was due to preside over Charlie Elphicke's 2020 trial for sexually

EXCLUSIVE
By **Glen Owen** and **Brendan Carlin**

assaulting two women. The Mail on Sunday has been told that when Ms Elphicke made objections about Lady Justice Whipple, Sir Robert furiously pointed out it would be wrong for him to interfere. Last night, Sir Robert said: 'She was told in no uncertain

terms that it would have been completely inappropriate to speak to the judge about the trial at all.'

The claims are likely to prove embarrassing for Sir Keir, a former Director of Public Prosecutions.

The extraordinary clash came after former MP Elphicke's trial was listed to be one of the first cases to be heard after the first Covid lockdown. Sources said Ms

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**EXCLUSIVE
YOU
INTERVIEW**



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LOUISE THOMPSON**

**Childbirth
destroyed
all the good
in my life**