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<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trickle-becomes-flood-as-another-1-000-members-quit-labour-tnjflfkp9>

# Trickle becomes flood as another 1,000 members quit Labour

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Labour's membership has fallen by 10,850 in the past four weeks, according to official party documents leaked to The Times.

The revelation comes after it emerged earlier this month that the party had lost 26,000 members since last July's peak of 554,000. A Labour source said that the latest departures showed "the trickle becoming a flood".

Last week, membership fell by about 6,450, as people failed to renew their subscriptions. A total of 692 people actively resigned and 300 additional resignations are waiting to be processed. The primary reason members gave for quitting was the party's "general direction and approach to Brexit", according to Labour's weekly membership key performance indicators report, which was seen by this newspaper.

During the seven days leading up to Sunday, 334 people joined the Labour Party and more than 5,960 people allowed their membership to lapse. The report said this was "a huge increase on last week. About 60 per cent of these people joined to take part in the 2016 leadership election and immediately went into arrears. The other 40 per cent joined to take part in the 2015 leadership election and didn't renew their membership after the first year."

During the week before last, a total of 2,833 memberships lapsed.

Labour has become the largest left-wing party in Europe under Mr Corbyn, with 210,000 people joining last year. He hailed a "political sea change" last summer after new members flooded in and his team set an ambitious target of boosting membership to one million. Senior party figures say that the tide is now ebbing, however.

A Labour spokesman said: "We don't comment on membership numbers."

On Thursday Ken Livingstone will face an internal party hearing to determine whether he will be reinstated as a member or expelled, after his suspension from Labour last April in a row over antisemitic comments. Mr Livingstone compared the secretive, quasi-judicial process to North Korea. He said: "The annoying thing is that they won't allow press and public in."

He has hired Michael Mansfield QC to represent him in a judicial review if the party expels him.

Mr Livingstone had said that Adolf Hitler's policy in 1932 "was that Jews should be moved to Israel. He was supporting Zionism - this before he went mad and ended up killing six million

Jews". He added that there was a "campaign by the Israel lobby" to smear anyone who criticised Israeli policy.

Yesterday he told The Times that he would produce documents from the Yad Vashem holocaust memorial website and a 1974 University of Chicago journal to support his claims that Hitler at one point had links to Zionism.