



## A TRIBUTE TO MR DAVID HENCKE

The death of **Mr David Hencke** marks the passing of one of Britain's most courageous and principled investigative journalists. Throughout a distinguished career, he demonstrated that journalism, at its best, is a public service. His relentless pursuit of truth exposed political wrongdoing, challenged abuses of power, and helped hold those in the highest offices accountable. His investigations contributed to the downfall of government ministers and served as a reminder that no one should be beyond scrutiny in a democratic society.

David Hencke earned widespread respect not simply because of the stories he broke, but because of the integrity with which he pursued them. He understood that journalism was not about headlines for their own sake, but about giving a voice to those who would otherwise go unheard. He stood alongside ordinary people facing powerful institutions and ensured their concerns reached the public domain.

What made David's achievements even more remarkable was the quiet strength with which he lived his personal life. While caring devotedly for his disabled wife, he never lost his commitment to helping others. Despite the demands and responsibilities, he carried at home, he continued to support those fighting for justice, proving that compassion and professional dedication can go hand in hand.

Among those who benefited from his encouragement were NHS whistleblowing doctors belonging to our group, JUSTICE FOR DOCTORS (JFD) and healthcare professionals who sought to expose serious failings within hospitals. At a time when many whistleblowers faced intimidation, retaliation, or attempts by hospital managers to silence them, David listened. He understood that protecting patients often depended upon protecting those brave enough to speak the truth. He recognised that transparency and accountability are essential to public trust in the NHS, and he gave many whistleblowers the confidence that their concerns mattered and deserved to be heard.

His support extended beyond simply reporting allegations. He believed that those exposing wrongdoing performed an important public duty and should be treated with respect rather than punishment. In doing so, he became an ally to many whose careers and reputations had been placed at risk because they chose honesty over silence. He attended employment tribunals and wrote numerous blogs exposing wrongdoing by both hospital managers and the judicial system when the latter took a clear position to align themselves with the employer no matter what. David attended JFD Conference held at the Royal Society of Medicine in May 2024 and gave a brilliant presentation exposing the playbook by those who chose to protect their reputation over patients and public interest.

David Hencke leaves behind a legacy that reaches far beyond journalism. He demonstrated that courage is not loud or theatrical; it is found in the steady determination to pursue the truth despite obstacles, criticism, or personal sacrifice. His work strengthened democratic accountability, encouraged transparency in public life, and inspired countless journalists, campaigners, healthcare professionals, and whistleblowers to continue speaking out when it mattered most.

As we remember David Hencke, we honour a man of integrity, compassion, and exceptional courage. His commitment to justice, fairness, and truth has left an enduring mark on public life. His voice may now be silent, but the principles he championed will continue to inspire future generations.

May he be remembered with gratitude, admiration, and deep respect. His life stands as a testament to the power of fearless journalism and the enduring difference that one principled individual can make in the service of others. We at Justice for Doctors are extremely saddened for losing such a great honourable man and a friend. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr Salam Z AL-SAM  
On behalf of Justice for Doctors  
30/06/2026