

Ex-UK minister: Don't adopt French privacy laws

June 26 2012

(AP) — A former British government minister brought down by a tabloid kiss-and-tell has told the country's media ethics inquiry that adopting French-style privacy laws would be a mistake.

David Mellor said French reluctance to report on public figures' private lives had meant former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn almost became president.

Strauss-Kahn was arrested after a New York hotel maid accused him of sexual assault. Prosecutors dropped the charges, but he faces a civil lawsuit, as well as other sexual allegations in France.

Mellor said Tuesday that for years French [privacy laws](#) had concealed "Strauss-Kahn's manifest unsuitability for office" from the public.

The British inquiry began amid a scandal over tabloid wrongdoing. Mellor resigned from Prime Minister John Major's government in 1992 after [tabloid](#) stories about his relationship with an actress.

Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Ex-UK minister: Don't adopt French privacy laws (2012, June 26) retrieved 24 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-06-ex-uk-minister-dont-french-privacy.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.