

Conspiracy conviction of Peter Hain

I WONDER why your profile of Peter Hain, with its emphasis on his 'immense charm', did not mention that in 1972 he was convicted of criminal conspiracy to disrupt the 1969 Davis Cup between Britain and South Africa after an Old Bailey trial (Opinion, February 24)?

When he appealed in 1973, the three Court of Appeal judges dismissed his application with costs. The court said that his conviction was 'fully justified'. Lord Justice Roskill said Hain had not elected to give evidence, adding 'he gave no explanation of his part over the incidents with which he was charged'.

If this man is being spoken of as a future Cabinet Minister surely your readers are entitled to be told of his criminal record.

Francis Bennion, Budleigh Salterton, Devon