

Committee on Standards in Public Life
Room G07, 1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1A 2AA

Sent by email

28 April 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 28 April in response to mine of 15 April about the Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests.

I welcome the appointment of Lord Geidt as the new Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests. This is an important standards role and Lord Geidt is a man of integrity, with a long career in public service.

We were pleased to see that the role will be on a non renewable basis of five years and that the Adviser will be supported by civil servants who do not report to Ministers. We also welcome your reassurance that where a matter is referred to the Independent Adviser and his work has concluded, the Adviser's advice on his conclusions (apart from that concerning sanctions) will be published in a timely manner.

While we welcome these steps and the changes made to the Terms of Reference for this role, we note that the Adviser will still lack the authority to initiate investigations. We will want to consider how far the new arrangements provide the degree of independence and transparency that the Committee believes is necessary, as our Standards Matter 2 review progresses.

I am copying this letter to Simon Case, Cabinet Secretary; and Darren Tierney, Director General, Propriety and Ethics Team, Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life