

Room GC.05  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Tel: 020 7271 2948

Email: [public@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:public@public-standards.gov.uk)

**Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

By email

24 July 2017

Dear Member of Parliament

You will be aware that the Committee on Standards in Public Life is undertaking, at the request of the Prime Minister, a review into the intimidation of Parliamentary candidates and the broader implications for other candidates and public office holders.

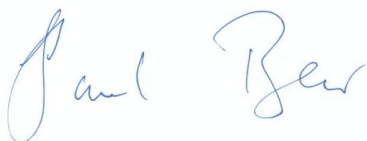
The Committee would like to invite all Members of Parliament to make a submission to the review as part of our public call for evidence, if they wish to do so.

Whilst the Committee wishes to understand the nature and scale of intimidation experienced by Parliamentary candidates for the purposes of the review, we are particularly interested in whether and how these experiences have altered the relationship and interaction between candidates and the public; the potential wider effects of such intimidation on public life; the role of political parties; the enforceability of the current law; and what steps might be taken to prevent intimidation in future.

The Committee is enabling individuals to make private submissions to the review, if they wish to do so, which will not be published.

The terms of reference for the review and our call to evidence are attached, and are also available on our website<sup>1</sup>.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Bew  
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life>

# Intimidation of Parliamentary Candidates: Committee on Standards in Public Life Review

## Call for Evidence

## Committee on Standards in Public Life

The Committee on Standards in Public Life is undertaking a review of intimidation experienced by Parliamentary candidates, including those who stood at the 2017 General Election. The Committee will also consider the broader implications for other candidates for public office and other public office holders.

This review will:

- Examine the nature of the problem and consider whether measures already in place to address such behaviour are satisfactory to protect the integrity of public service; and whether such measures are (a) effective, especially given the rise of social media, and (b) enforceable;
- Produce a report for the Prime Minister, including recommendations for action focused on what could be done in the short- and long-term and identifying examples of good practice.

The review will recognise the important role of legitimate scrutiny of those standing for public office by the public and the press.

The Committee invites evidence and comments on the following themes:

1. What is the nature and degree of intimidation experienced by Parliamentary candidates, in particular at the 2017 General Election?
2. Does the issue of the intimidation of Parliamentary candidates reflect a wider change in the relationship and discourse between public office holders and the public?
3. Has the media or social media significantly changed the nature, scale, or effect of intimidation of Parliamentary candidates? If so, what measures would you suggest to help address these issues?
4. Is existing legislation sufficient to address intimidation of Parliamentary candidates?
5. What role should political parties play in preventing the intimidation of Parliamentary candidates and encouraging constructive debate?
6. What other measures might be effective in addressing the intimidation of Parliamentary candidates, and candidates for public offices more broadly?
7. Could the experience of intimidation by Parliamentary candidates discourage people from standing for elected or appointed public offices?
8. Has the intimidation of Parliamentary candidates led to a change in the way in which public office holders interact with the public in correspondence, on social media, or at in-person events?

Please note that not all questions will be relevant to all respondents and that submissions do not need to respond to every question.

The Committee's standard practice for handling public submissions is that they will be published online alongside our final report with all personal data removed. However, given the sensitive nature of some evidence, the Committee is willing to accept **confidential submissions** which will not be published. If your submission contains sensitive information, and you would like it to be considered on a confidential basis, please state this explicitly in your response.<sup>i</sup>

Submissions must:

- State clearly **who the submission is from**, i.e. whether from yourself or sent on behalf of an organisation;
- Include a brief **introduction** about yourself/your organisation and your reason for submitting evidence;
- Be in doc, docx, rtf, txt ooxml or odt **format**, not PDF;
- Be **concise** – we recommend no more than 2,000 words in length; and
- Contain a contact **email address** if you are submitting by email.

Submissions should:

- Have **numbered paragraphs**; and
- Comprise a **single document**. If there are any annexes or appendices, these should be included in the same document.

It would be helpful if your submission included any **factual information** you have to offer from which the Committee might be able to draw conclusions, or which could be put to other witnesses for their reactions, and any **recommendations** for action which you would like the Committee to consider.

The Committee may choose not to accept a submission as evidence, or not to publish a public submission even if it is accepted as evidence. This may occur where a submission is very long or contains material which is inappropriate.

Submissions sent to the Committee after the deadline of **5pm on Friday 8 September** will not be considered.

Submissions can be sent:

1. Via email to: [public@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:public@public-standards.gov.uk)
2. Via post to:  
Review of Intimidation of Parliamentary Candidates  
Committee on Standards in Public Life  
GC:05  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

If you have any questions, please contact the Committee's Secretariat by email ([public@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:public@public-standards.gov.uk)) or phone (0207 271 2948)

---

<sup>i</sup> The Committee is enabling individuals to make private submissions to the review if they choose. If you mark your submission as private, we shall deem any communication with us to be subject to a duty of confidence and shall not release such except insofar as we are obliged to by law. Information received will be held in compliance with our obligations under the Data Protection Act.