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Committee on
Standards in
Public Life

Tim Farron MP
Party Leader
Liberal Democrats
8 – 10 Great George Street
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22 July 2015

Dear Mr Farron,

I am writing to you in your capacity as party leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Before the election, the majority of the main political parties indicated in their manifestos that they intended to address different aspects to reform political party finance. In the view of my Committee, it remains a key issue of concern for the public. As a Committee we have looked at this issue in detail twice and produced evidence-based reports and recommendations. The 2011 report recommended a carefully balanced package of reforms which were intended to be accepted as a whole so as not to unduly benefit or disadvantage any one party.

I understand that the cross party talks on reforming political party finance failed to reach any resolution in the last Parliament. I am asking all leaders of the main political parties to re-convene those cross party talks to look again at the reforms needed to bring greater integrity into the funding our political parties. Complex and difficult as some of these issues may be, it is clear to us that this issue cannot be resolved without the political will to do so. We are under no illusion as to the difficulties involved.

My Committee stands ready to assist.

Yours sincerely



Paul Bew
Chair