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**Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

13 December 2017

Dear Alison Saunders CB,

**Intimidation in Public Life: A Review by the Committee on Standards in Public Life**

I enclose a copy of the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report, Intimidation in Public Life, which was published today.

The increasing prevalence of intimidation in our public life, including of Parliamentary candidates at elections, should concern everyone who cares about our democracy. There has been persistent, vile and shocking intimidatory behaviour, and it is clear that much of this is targeted at certain groups.

We present a full body of evidence showing the extent and seriousness of the problem. We have found intimidation takes place across the political spectrum, both in terms of those engaging in intimidation and those receiving it.

We were very grateful for the extensive evidence and assistance provided by the Crown Prosecution Service to the Committee, from both Gregor McGill and from CPS officials.

The Committee concluded that the current CPS prosecution guidelines for the offences we consider are proportionate and reasonable. However, greater clarity among Parliamentary candidates as to what behaviour is and is not illegal, and what Parliamentary candidates can expect from their local police force, would assist Parliamentary candidates during election periods and would result in more effective policing. We recommend that the National Police Chiefs Council should work with the Crown Prosecution Service and the College of Policing to produce accessible guidance for Parliamentary candidates giving clear advice on the behaviour which they may experience during a campaign which is likely to constitute a criminal offence and what they should do in the face of such intimidation. We hope you would be willing to collaborate towards this work. We suggest that such guidance should be produced before the next general election.

Addressing this important issue in our public life will require a committed and concerned approach from a number of individuals and organisations. We will be monitoring progress on the implementation of our recommendations, and will keep in touch with you over the coming months in that regard.

We expect a comprehensive response to this issue. Determined action on the part of all those involved is required, as the cost to our democracy of not engaging constructively to resolve these issues is too high

Yours sincerely,



Lord Bew  
Chair

**Selflessness | Integrity | Objectivity | Accountability | Openness | Honesty | Leadership**

