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E-mail: public@public-standards.gov.uk

Rt Hon Sir Patrick McLoughlin MP
Chair
Conservative Party
4 Matthew Parker Street
Westminster
London
SW1H 9HQ

Committee on Standards in Public Life

13 December 2017

Dear Rt Hon Sir Patrick McLoughlin MP,

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.

Political parties have an important duty of care to their candidates, members and supporters, so must work to address this intimidatory behaviour and culture. Importantly, this report and its recommendations should not be used for partisan purposes or political gain.

We make a number of recommendations to the political parties. The parties should come together to develop a joint code of conduct on intimidatory behaviour during election campaigns, which should be agreed by December 2018. The code should be jointly enforced during election campaigns. Parties must also do more to support their candidates, especially female, BAME, and LGBT candidates who are more likely to be targeted as subjects of intimidation.

Intimidation is changing the tone of our public discourse and debate. The leadership of all political parties must call out and condemn intimidatory behaviour by their members and supporters. They must be clear there is no tolerance for this sort of behaviour within their party; they have a responsibility to not remain silent whenever and wherever intimidation takes place.

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.

I am copying this letter to the leader of your party, Rt Hon Theresa May MP.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Bew
Chair



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

1 Horse Guards Road
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Ian Lavery MP
Chair
Labour Party
105 Victoria Street
Westminster
London
SW1E 6HT

Committee on Standards in Public Life

13 December 2017

Dear Ian Lavery MP,

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I am copying this letter to the leader of your party, Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Bew
Chair



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Rt Hon Baroness Sarah Brinton
President
Liberal Democrat Party
8-10 Great George Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3AE

Committee on Standards in Public Life

13 December 2017

Dear Rt Hon Baroness Sarah Brinton,

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I am copying this letter to the leader of your party, Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Bew
Chair



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Ian Hudgton MEP
President
Scottish National Party
Gordon Lamb House, 3 Jackson's Entry
Gentle's Entry
Edinburgh
EH8 8PJ

Committee on Standards in Public Life

13 December 2017

Dear Ian Hudgton MEP,

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I am copying this letter to the leader of your party, Nicola Sturgeon MSP.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Bew
Chair



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Lord Morrow of Clogher Valley
Chair
Democratic Unionist Party
91 Dundela Avenue
Belfast
BT4 3BU

Committee on Standards in Public Life

13 December 2017

Dear Lord Morrow of Clogher Valley,

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I am copying this letter to the leader of your party, Arlene Foster MLA.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Bew
Chair



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SW1A 2HQ

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Alun Ffred Jones AM
Chair
Plaid Cymru
Anson Court, Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4AL

Committee on Standards in Public Life

13 December 2017

Dear Alun Ffred Jones AM,

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I am copying this letter to the leader of your party, Leanne Wood AM.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Bew
Chair



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Clare Phipps
Chair
The Green Party
100 Clements Road
London
SE16 4DG

Committee on Standards in Public Life

13 December 2017

Dear Clare Phipps,

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

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I am copying this letter to the leaders of your party, Caroline Lucas MP and Jonathan Bartley.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Bew
Chair

