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Committee on
Standards in
Public Life

Chloe Smith MP
Minister for the Constitution
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

27 September 2018

Dear Chloe

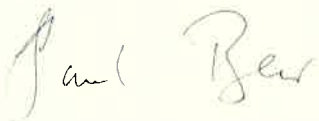
The Committee warmly welcomes the government's consultation, *Protecting the Debate: Intimidation, Influence, and Information*.

The Committee supports the provisions proposed by the government, and welcomes the government's overarching commitment to protect the integrity of elections.

In particular, we are very pleased that the government has implemented our recommendation to consult on the introduction of a new electoral offence of intimidating Parliamentary candidates or campaigners.

The Committee takes the view that others will be better placed to address the various practical, technical, and legal questions raised in the consultation. We look forward to the government's response in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Lord (Paul) Bew
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life