



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Lord Evans of Weardale
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life
Room GC.07
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

26 October 2018

Dear Lord Evans,

Independent inquiry report into the
bullying and harassment of House of Commons staff

I am writing in response to your predecessor's letter, dated 18 October 2018, concerning the Dame Laura Cox report and the interest of your Committee in this matter. The Commission were grateful to receive your Committee's views and contribution, and the views of many others, which they have now considered.


The Commission meeting of 24 October agreed to the three fundamental recommendations highlighted by Dame Laura on page 6 of her report and:

1. We are terminating the Valuing Others Policy, and have suspended operation of the Respect Policy recommending that the House terminate it as soon as possible;
2. We recommend that the House amend the new Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme to ensure that those House employees with complaints involving historical allegations can access the new Scheme;
3. We recommend that the House consider the most effective way to ensure that the process for determining complaints of bullying, harassment or sexual harassment brought by House staff against Members of Parliament will be an entirely independent process, in which Members of Parliament will play no part.

It is now up to the House to take forward these recommendations to which we are fully committed. We would expect to see them progressed as quickly as possible. There will of course be consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

The full statement from the Commission on the Report is available on the Commission website:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/other-committees/house-of-commons-commission/news-parliament-2017/statement-from-the-house-of-commons-commission-on-the-dame-laura-cox-report/>


Sir David Natzler KCB
Clerk of the House