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Sir David Natzler KCB
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**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

23 November 2018

Dear Sir David,

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY REPORT INTO BULLYING AND HARASSMENT OF HOUSE OF COMMONS STAFF

Thank you for your letter of 26 October in response to Lord Bew's earlier letter of 18 October concerning the Dame Laura Cox report. I was appointed to succeed Lord Bew as Chair of the Committee from 1st November.

We are grateful to you for confirming that the Commission agreed the three fundamental recommendations in Dame Laura's report. We would, however, like to ask for clarification from the Commission about how the recommendations will be delivered.

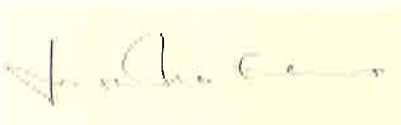
We recognise the complexity of the issue, and the particular challenge the Commission faces in establishing an independent system in Parliament where there are varied and complex working relationships and employment structures. The gravity of the situation however, and the lack of clarity around some key issues, for example who does what and by when, is a cause for concern.

From my Committee's perspective what is not entirely clear is where accountability lies for delivering these fundamental changes in the House. We were also disappointed that your letter did not specify clear time frames for taking forward the report's recommendations even in a broad sense, other than to say that you expect the House to progress the recommendations as quickly as possible. There is a risk that the need for clarity around what the House intends to do and by when, as well as clear accountability, will get lost in a process that has the potential to become protracted and drawn out.

I would therefore be grateful for more detail on what is proposed by the Commission to obviate these risks.

I want to let you know that this letter will be published on the Committee's website. I am also copying this letter to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely



Lord Evans of Weardale, Chair