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Sent by email to Martin Hewitt QPM

The logo for the Committee on Standards in Public Life, featuring the text "Committee on Standards in Public Life" in white on a red rectangular background.

Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life

Wednesday 21 October 2020

Dear Martin Hewitt QPM,

### INTIMIDATION IN PUBLIC LIFE REPORT FOLLOW UP

In December 2017, the Committee published a report on the subject of [Intimidation in Public Life](#). We heard evidence of an increasing prevalence of persistent and shocking intimidatory behaviour, including of candidates at elections.

Three years on we are following up the recommendations made in that report with the intention of publishing a formal update on progress by the end of the year.

Your previous Chair, Chief Constable Sara Thornton CBE QPM, kindly wrote in 2018 to update the Committee. Thank you for that letter, which is [attached for ease of reference](#).

We were glad to see that the NPCC published joint guidance with the Crown Prosecution Service, the College of Policing and the Electoral Commission in 2019, about behaviour which candidates in elections may experience during a campaign which is likely to constitute a criminal offence, as per our recommendation.

We would welcome hearing from you before **7 November 2020** on the steps you have taken towards implementing our recommendations, which I have attached separately for ease of reference. We are particularly interested in what you are doing to ensure that local police forces have sufficient training to enable them to investigate offences committed through social media.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lord Evans".

Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

**Recommendations made to the NPCC:**

The NPCC should ensure that local police forces have sufficient training to enable them to effectively investigate offences committed through social media. Local police forces should be able to access advice and guidance on the context in which MPs and Parliamentary candidates work.

The NPCC, working with the CPS and the College of Policing, should produce accessible guidance for Parliamentary candidates giving clear advice on behaviour they may experience during a campaign which is likely to constitute a criminal offence.