



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
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Lord Evans
Chair of the Committee on Standards in
Public Life

18 June 2021

Dear Lord Evans,

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE: STANDARDS MATTER 2 INTERIM
REPORT**

Thank you for sharing the Committee's interim findings for the Standards Matter 2 review. As the Committee is aware, the Government takes its commitment to high ethical standards very seriously and has made its commitment to the Seven Principles of Public Life clear. We welcome the work being undertaken by the Committee and will consider your recommendations carefully, as we already have done in relation to early recommendations concerning the role of the Independent Adviser on Ministers Interests.

I note that the interim report identifies four areas where the Committee makes recommendations. As you will be aware, some of these issues have recently been, or are being, actively considered within Government. As part of Lord Geidt's appointment as the Independent Adviser on Ministers Interests, we have considered the terms of reference of the Independent Adviser's role, in light of the Committee's recommendations. We are also working with ACOBA to strengthen the application of the Business Appointment Rules. The Committee's findings will also be taken forward alongside the independent Boardman review into the development and use of Supply Chain Finance (and associated schemes) within Government, which will report in due course.

I look forward to the full report in the autumn, and to continuing to work with the Committee in its consideration of these important issues.

With every good wish,

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**