

Committee on Standards in Public Life
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Anneliese Dodds MP
Chair, Labour Party

Sent by email

**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

6 August 2021

Dear Anneliese Dodds,

Thank you for your letter of 6 August regarding the fundraising activities of the Co-Chair of the Conservative Party, Ben Elliot.

As I have explained in prior correspondence and meetings with the Labour Party, the Committee's remit does not include investigating individual cases, and so we cannot undertake an investigation of this nature. That is the role of the appropriate regulator, in this case the Electoral Commission. The Committee's remit is to advise the Prime Minister on the arrangements for upholding high standards, rather than advising on the facts of any individual case.

We made recommendations for strengthening the regulation of election finance in our July report and have recently published initial findings from our landscape review of standards in June.

Our predecessors on the Committee considered party political finance in their 2011 report 'Ending the big donor culture'. However, its recommendations have been rejected by both the Conservative and Labour Parties.

As I said to Angela Rayner in reply to her letter this week, I would be happy to meet with the Labour Party or receive written evidence regarding our current review, *Standards Matter 2*, which is focusing on the Ministerial Code, Business Appointments Rules, transparency around lobbying, and public appointments.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL, Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

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