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Lord Jonathan Evans of Weardale
Chair of Committee on Standards in Public Life
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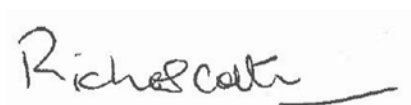
Review of Local Government Ethical Standards

Dear Lord Evans

I am writing to you on behalf of the Standards Committee at Camden Council. The Committee recently considered the Government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life 2019 report on Local Government Ethical Standards. It noted that the Government's decision not to implement your recommendations on sanctions has left the local government standards regime with very few powers at a local level. In effect, the most severe sanction available to local authorities is a finding of a breach of the Code of Conduct. While in councils such as Camden with already high standards, group discipline and close media scrutiny, this does not have any detrimental effect, in other councils without such controls councillors who have behaved very badly will remain in office.

Standards Committee requested that I write to you to express its disappointment in the Government's response, encourage you to continue to push for new, stronger sanctions, and ask you what the Committee on Standards in Public Life's next steps in this area will be.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Richard Cotton
Chair of Standards Committee