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Lord Evans KCB DL
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life
House of Lords
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Dear Lord Evans,

Thank you for the Committee's recent report 'Leading in Practice'. It is a valuable addition to the conversation concerning leadership in public sector organisations, and is enhanced by the inclusion of case studies and examples from so many of those in such positions.

As you know, the Prime Minister took office with a pledge to lead a government based on integrity, professionalism and accountability. This remains his aim, and I am equally determined to ensure that we strive to achieve this objective. The Prime Minister's updating of the Ministerial Code and appointment of a new Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests are two tangible examples of this commitment.

However, I agree with the report's finding that the existence of codes and rules may be necessary but are unlikely to be sufficient conditions for improving ethical leadership in public organisations. As the Committee noted, to do so requires active and engaged leadership, able to demonstrate the desired behaviours set out in such codes.

I would like to thank you and the Committee for your continued work in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster