



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE
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Lord Evans
Committee on Standards in Public Life
H M Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
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6th July 2023

Dear Lord Evans,

Thank you for your letter of 9 May 2023, I am responding to you as the election finance rules fall within my ministerial responsibilities.

Once again, I would like to thank the Committee on Standards in Public Life for their comprehensive report. As you know, the Government published its response to the report on 15 September 2021. The Government has no plans to produce a further response to the Committee's 2021 report.

The Elections Act 2022 contains several measures which relate to recommendations made in that report. The Act strengthened transparency in the election finance framework through introducing a new requirement for political parties with assets and liabilities above £500 to produce an asset and liabilities declaration upon registration. The Act also introduced a restriction on foreign third-party campaigning at elections. It is an important, and existing, principle that only those with a legitimate interest in UK elections can spend money seeking to influence the electorate.

Finally, as recommended by the report, the Election Act 2022 also requires the Electoral Commission to issue a code of practice for third-party campaigners on controlled expenditure. Following the receipt of the draft code, the Government is currently considering the draft as set out in the legislation.

The Elections Act 2022 has updated electoral law to ensure that our democracy remains secure, modern, transparent, and fair. The Government is currently focused on effective implementation of that Act, including the introduction of voter identification at polling stations. Alongside this, the Government keeps the regulatory framework for election finance under review to ensure our electoral system strikes the right balance between transparency and proportionality.

Yours ever,

Scott of Bybrook

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK OBE