



The Rt Hon Lucy Powell MP
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE
Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life
1 Horse Guards Road
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Dear Doug,

Thank you in particular for all your work in the build up to the General Election relating to the need for civility in the tone used by political candidates in public debate. You play a vital and important role in upholding the highest standards in Parliament.

I wanted to write as the new Leader of the House about the Government's plans to work with you and the House to further drive up standards and expectations of Members after an era of Parliament being brought into some disrepute.

The Government is committed to bringing about a return to a politics of service and you will be aware that, as a first step, the House has agreed to the Government's proposals to further limit Members taking up paid advocacy roles. I sought and followed the invaluable advice provided by the Standards Commissioner in this regard, and I intend to continue to be guided by his advice, where appropriate.

The House also approved the Government's motion to establish a Modernisation Committee. The Government intends for the Modernisation Committee to be a driving force in improving the standards, culture and working practices of the House, highlighting and drawing upon the important work of existing select committees.

I intend for the Modernisation Committee to work closely with all bodies across Parliament, drawing on their expertise. Its aim will be to make strategic reforms that match the pace of change desired, including driving forward the good work of existing bodies and committees where appropriate.

I greatly value your insights into how the standards rules and working culture in Westminster could be improved in line with best practice in other workplaces and organisations - and I look forward to working with you to this end. I would be grateful if we could arrange a meeting to discuss these important matters following summer recess.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Power