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Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local  
Government

**Committee  
on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

Sent by email

20 January 2025

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

I am writing to draw your attention to our 2021 report, Regulating Election Finance, which recommended practical reforms to meet threats around the source of donations, deliver greater transparency around digital campaigning and enhance compliance with election finance law.

I was encouraged to hear you confirm to MPs in Parliament earlier this month that the government plans to bring in a new law governing party donations and election rules before the next general election, building on the commitment in the Labour Party manifesto to “protect democracy by strengthening the rules around donations to political parties”.

The purpose of the rules on ‘permissible donations’ in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) is to prevent foreign money from entering UK politics, yet we heard from contributors to our review that the current rules are insufficient to guard against foreign interference. Our recommendations are designed to address gaps and shortcomings in the regime for regulating donations.

We also made a number of recommendations on campaign expenditure, including measures designed to enhance compliance with electoral law and to increase voter access to information about how money is spent at elections.

Our review took evidence from a broad range of contributors – political parties, third party campaigners, candidates, law enforcement bodies, academics, returning officers and the Electoral Commission. We sought to take into account the diversity of views we heard and make practical recommendations that would lead to tangible improvements.

I hope that the work carried out by the committee in 2021 will be of assistance as the government develops its thinking on the changes needed to protect the integrity of our electoral system.

I am copying this letter to Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office; and Darren Tierney, Director General, Propriety & Constitution Group, Cabinet Office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Doug Chalmers', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Doug Chalmers**  
**Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life**