



Procedure Committee

Parligender

By email to parligender@parliament.uk

24 February 2022

Dear Members of the Parligender Committee,

Thank you for your letter of 20 January relating to the safety of women staff members on the parliamentary estate.

I have also reviewed the letter sent by the Trade Union Side to the Women and Equalities Committee on 25 November, and am conscious that the report of their inquiry into a Gender Sensitive Parliament is being prepared.

The issues that you have raised are obviously very serious and, as previous correspondence shows, complex. You have quite reasonably asked that this is something the Procedure Committee considers.

As the Speaker's letter of 27 October makes clear, it would be for the House to decide whether or not to introduce a mechanism by which a Member under investigation for allegations of sexual assault to be excluded from the Estate.

In order for the Procedure Committee to consider the question in an informed manner, the Committee will request specialist legal and procedural advice on whether such a mechanism would in principle be compatible with the systems that the House has recently established, and how any investigative process can best be protected.

I will write to you again when the Committee has considered the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Procedure Committee