



Procedure Committee

Ken Gall, Trade Union Side President

Members of the Parligender Committee

By email

21 April 2022

Dear Ken and Members of the Parligender Committee,

Thank you for your letters of 4 April and 20 January respectively, relating to the exclusion from the parliamentary estate of Members of Parliament accused of sexual misconduct. As the House's Sexual Misconduct Policy makes clear, all members of the Parliamentary community are expected to treat others with dignity, courtesy and respect and sexual misconduct is unacceptable in all circumstances.

The Women and Equalities Committee recommended that we consider the matter in its report on *Equality in the heart of democracy: A gender sensitive House of Commons*, which was published on 2 March. The Committee has now received advice from the Clerk of the House, which we will be publishing on our website. I attach a copy for your convenience.

The Committee discussed the matter at its meeting yesterday and has decided not to conduct an inquiry into whether a process to exclude Members accused of sexual misconduct from the parliamentary estate could be introduced. The Committee noted in particular the difficulty in maintaining the confidentiality of investigations, were such a mechanism to be introduced.

We share in the commitment shown by Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the House to ensuring that the House of Commons is a safe place to work.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Procedure Committee