



PACAC (Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee)

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Simon Case
Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Office
By email only

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Dear Simon

Cabinet Manual

Since our correspondence last year on the subject of the Cabinet Manual, we are aware that work has begun on identifying areas of the Manual that will need updating and that there is a commitment to produce a new version before the end of this Parliament. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with an update on how this work is progressing and likely timelines for a new draft to be produced?

As I set out in my letter of 22 February 2021, the Cabinet Manual has become an important constitutional reference text. While it represents and distils the Government's understanding of laws, practices, conventions, and rules of the operation of Government, it is important that as much consensus as possible is reached with Parliament on these issues. To this end, it is the intention of Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee to review the new draft of the Cabinet Manual in full once it is available. I am providing notice of this, so that it can be factored into the timetable for producing and finalising the new version of the Cabinet Manual. Committee officials would be happy to meet with you to discuss appropriate timings of this review.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, so that they are also informed of the Committee's intentions in this matter. This letter is also copied to the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord Speaker, the Chair of Liaison Committee, and the Chair of the House of Lords Constitution Committee, so that they are also informed of the Committee's intentions and can remain updated on the timetable for producing the new Cabinet Manual.

William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee