



HM Government

Simon Case
Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

10th September 2020

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 9 September and for offering your congratulations on my appointment. I look forward to having a constructive relationship with the Committee during my tenure as Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service.

I am grateful for the discussion we had earlier in the week - it was kind of you to take the time and it was useful to begin exchanging thoughts and ideas. I hope we can continue in this open and collaborative approach.

As discussed when we spoke, my strong preference remains to appear at a more substantive evidence session in the coming weeks when I have had time to familiarise myself with all aspects of the role. In any event I am unavailable to attend the session next Monday. Therefore I will ask my office to work with the Committee Clerk to find an alternative date which is mutually agreeable. In place of next week, my offer stands to host the Committee for an informal introductory meeting in the interim at 70 Whitehall.

Yours, with deepest respect,


SIMON CASE

PACAC (Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee)

House of Commons · London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 3268 Email pacac@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/pacac

Simon Case
Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Office
SW1A 2AS

9th September 2020

Dear Simon Case

PACAC evidence session

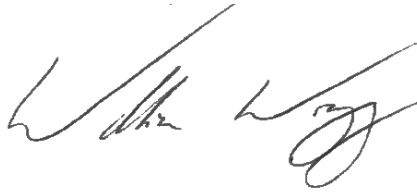
Congratulations on your appointment as Cabinet Secretary. The Committee hopes to have a constructive relationship with you. As you know we originally had a session scheduled with your predecessor as Cabinet Secretary, Sir Mark Sedwill on Monday 14th September. Despite it being in diaries since July, he has since turned down that invitation, saying that he did not want to cause you, his successor, discomfort by appearing. While I appreciate you will be new in post, my Committee is of the view it would be timely and helpful to instead hold an evidence session with you as the Cabinet Secretary on that day.

In recognition of the fact that you are new in post, the Committee has agreed hold a high-level introductory evidence session focussing on the following points:

- the role of No 10 and its relationship with the Cabinet Office, to feed into the Committee's inquiries; and
- what you consider to be your priorities and the most likely future challenges you and the Civil Service will face and how success against those should be judged;

We will seek to hold a more substantive evidence session with you sometime in the future once you have had an opportunity to become more accustomed to your new role. Given you have just succeeded in a recruitment campaign for the role it seems reasonable to assume that, as part of that exercise, you set out your vision for the Civil Service and would have something to say about your initial priorities so I hope this session would not require too much additional preparation.

Due to the timescales involved I would be grateful to have a response from you later today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Wragg', written in a cursive style.

William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee