



HM Government

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

The Baroness Drake CBE
Chair, Constitution Committee
House of Lords
SW1A 0PW

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

CABINET MANUAL UPDATE

13 June 2023

Dear Baroness Drake and Mr Wragg,

Thank you both for your patience regarding the Government's work to update the Cabinet Manual. As you will recall, this work began in February 2022, when the Government made its commitment to publish an update before the end of this Parliament.

Officials across a number of government departments initially undertook a scoping exercise to determine where the Manual had become out of date. While some areas required more substantive updates than others due to a number of developments that have occurred in the last 12 years, the whole Manual needed to be reviewed in detail to ensure all factual inaccuracies could be identified and amended.

The debate on the Cabinet Manual in the House of Lords that took place on 16 December demonstrated the importance of the Manual both for those working within the Government - as a tool for Ministers and officials - and for those who are seeking to better understand how the Government operates. Considering these sentiments, officials have been exploring further updates to ensure the Manual provides clarity in areas which are a matter of convention and practice and where information is currently either limited or difficult to access in one place.

This process is ongoing and we will provide further updates to you and your committees in due course. Our current intention is to be in a position to share draft material for review in the autumn of this year. I understand that officials are due to meet with the clerks of both committees on 19 June and would be happy to answer any questions in the meantime.

While these further updates may have extended the process for producing the second edition of the Manual, the Government's intention to publish an updated version before the end of the current Parliament remains.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Case', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

SIMON CASE