



## Procedure Committee

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From the Rt Hon. Karen Bradley MP, Chair of the Committee

Rt Hon. Jacob Rees-Mogg MP  
Leader of the House of Commons

17 December 2020

Dear Jacob

At Business questions today you twice expressed your regret at the way in which the debate on your motion on virtual participation on 24 November ended. Many hon. and Rt hon. Members would share that view, but also regret the way in which the debate began, which did not demonstrate the fundamental principle of fair play which should underpin our proceedings.

As you will be aware (HC Deb 15 December col 166), I am keen to explore ways in which the debate on your motion can be brought to an orderly conclusion. The simplest way would be for a short debate to take place at your initiation.

I would invite you to consider whether time could be found early in the new year so that the opinion of the House can be tested on your motion and any amendments which are selected. By bringing such a debate forward under the terms of a motion governing debate and decision, we could be sure of a line being drawn under the question.

It is a matter of deep regret to my committee that the question of how Members may participate in proceedings has become so divisive. Changes to procedure—whether intended to be temporary or permanent—are best made by consensus, and I hope that my committee will be able to engage constructively with you when the House comes to consider how the temporary changes made over the course of 2020 can best be reviewed.

Yours sincerely

**Rt Hon. Karen Bradley MP**