



**The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP**  
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons  
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP  
Chair of the Procedure Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: PM/NMP3411  
20th July 2023

Dear Karen,

**Correcting the Record (Fourth Report of Session 2022-23)**

Thank you to your Committee for its recent report on correcting the record. The Government welcomes the Committee's conclusions and recommendations relating to the process by which Ministers and backbench members make corrections. It is important that we have clear and transparent processes when MPs make inadvertent errors.

As the Government set out in its written evidence, it is ultimately the responsibility of individual Members to ensure that they uphold the standards required of holders of public office and the provision of accurate information in respect of policies and actions is, of course, a key component of ministerial accountability to Parliament. The obligation on Ministers to ensure that the information they provide to Parliament is accurate is set out in the Ministerial Code and in the House's 1997 resolution on ministerial accountability. Ministers take this obligation seriously.

It is an important principle that all members of the House, be they Ministers of the Crown, members of the Official Opposition or backbench members, adhere to the high standards of accountability and openness and have a similar responsibility to provide accurate information. The Government, therefore, welcomes the proposed expansion of the formal corrections process to all MPs. The lack of a formal mechanism for members of the Official Opposition and backbench MPs means there is no clear way of identifying and linking an original statement to the correction given and the public should not have to work their way through Hansard before finding the correction. The Government believes that this change would improve clarity and transparency of corrections.

In terms of visibility and accessibility of corrections, the Government's priority is that the process ensures transparency and that the visibility of corrections made to the Official Report is sufficient. Should the House agree with the Committee's recommendations regarding changes the House authorities can make to further improve the transparency of these corrections, this would of course be a positive step.

Ultimately, this is a matter for the House to decide and the Government will therefore be happy to facilitate a motion for the House to take a decision on whether or not the changes proposed by the Committee should be made.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "PM Mordant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.