



Women and Equalities Committee

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP

**Secretary of State for Business and Trade, President of the Board of Trade,
and Minister for Women and Equalities**

By email

26 October 2023

Dear Kemi,

The Equality and Human Rights Commission

Further to my letter of 13 September regarding the investigation into the Chairwoman of the EHRC, and the statement yesterday by the Deputy Chair of the EHRC that explained that the investigation would now be closed following the conclusions of a review into the handling of complaints against her, I would be grateful for further information on both the investigation and the review as part of our responsibility to scrutinise the work of the EHRC.

You will be aware that we were advised that we could not ask any questions relating to these matters when the leadership of the EHRC appeared before the Committee in July.

Under Standing Order 152, the Women and Equalities Committee has the power to send for persons, papers and records. Under those powers, and for the purposes of transparency, I would like to request the following information:

- What the terms of reference of the investigation were, the conditions of the appointment of the person who carried out the investigation, the reasons for it closing including any interim conclusions it may have drawn and a list of who was interviewed or contributed in writing to that investigation;
- Who carried out the review into the handling of complaints against the chairwoman, what its terms of reference were, the conditions of the appointment of the person who carried the investigation and a list of who was interviewed or contributed in writing to that review;



Women and Equalities Committee

- A copy of the independent legal review, and relevant paperwork including the conclusions and the guidance that has flowed from it.

I would be grateful for a response to this letter by 3 November so that we can consider the review at our first meeting after prorogation. I look forward to a response to both of my letters.

Yours ever,

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee