



Treasury Committee

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Baroness Vere of Norbiton, Parliamentary Secretary
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
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via email

30 January 2024

Dear Baroness Vere,

Sexism in the City Inquiry – 17 January 2024

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on 17 January 2024 and your follow up letter dated 19 January 2024 offering to elaborate on points raised during the session.

You agreed to write to the Committee to tell us what you know about the use of ‘privileged investigations’ in cases of alleged harassment [Q279]. I look forward to hearing about this question.

In addition, I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions, which follow-up on some of the points discussed in the session:

Women in Finance Charter

- You made it clear in the session that you have no plans to make any changes to the Women in Finance Charter [Q247]. However, do you think that signatories to the Charter should be required to report on the extent to which they have adopted elements of the Charter ‘blueprint’ that Dame Amanda Blanc and Nishma Gosrani have produced?

Harassment and misogyny

- You told us you were keen to ensure that the FCA’s communications on whistleblowing options are clear and effective [Q257]. What steps would you like the FCA to take, and what role does the Treasury have in supporting them?
- Were the FCA to seek wider legal powers to deal with non-financial misconduct and some of the more egregious behaviour they see in the industry, would the Government be prepared to legislate to provide them?

In line with the Committee’s usual practice, I will be placing this letter and your response in the public domain. I would be grateful for a reply by 9 February 2024.

With best wishes,

Harriett Baldwin MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee