Dear Karen,

Following the House’s agreement to the motion on 30 December, it is now possible for members to contribute to debates in the chamber remotely. I look forward to the Committee’s assessment of how these changes are working in due course. These measures were introduced in part as an important way of reducing the number of people on the parliamentary estate, in line with the latest government covid guidance.

I have since received representations from across the House, expressing concerns about the continuation of Westminster Hall and sitting Fridays. In view of these representations, I have tabled motions to suspend sittings in Westminster Hall and sitting Fridays for the foreseeable future. It will obviously be for the House to decide whether these motions should be agreed.

As ever, I would be happy to discuss this with you and I look forward to meeting the Committee shortly.

I am copying this letter to Mr Speaker, the Chairman of Ways and Means, the Clerk of the House, the Shadow Leader of the House, the SNP Shadow Leader, Sir Bernard Jenkin, Ian Mearns and Catherine McKinnell.

With every good wish,

Yours,

[Signature]

HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA
commonsleader@cabinetoffice.gov.uk