



HOUSE OF LORDS

Baroness Keeley
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The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
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16 June 2026

Dear Lord Chancellor,

I write regarding Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs).

The Communications and Digital Committee has taken a keen interest in this topic over several years, particularly under the leadership of my predecessor, Baroness Stowell of Beeston. The Committee and I, as current Chair, will continue to scrutinise the Government's progress in tackling this pernicious issue which, as we noted in our 2024 report *The future of news*, has serious potential consequences for media freedom in the UK.¹

Our report was clear about the need for the Government to prioritise anti-SLAPP legislation. During our inquiry, we were warned that none of the positive developments of the prior two years, such as the establishment of the SLAPPs Taskforce,² would hold up if associated legislative and regulatory measures did not follow. While we recognised the complexity of the issue and the need for broad stakeholder engagement on potential legislation, we were not persuaded that these excused a lack of decisive action. As such, we called for draft legislative proposals to be introduced in Parliament before the 2025 summer recess.

Responding to our report in January 2025, the Government highlighted provisions introduced in the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 which apply to economic crime-related SLAPPs.³ It added that it did "not intend to legislate further in the

¹ Communications and Digital Committee, [The future of news](#) (1st Report, Session 2024–25, HL Paper 39)

² HM Government, [SLAPPs Taskforce](#), 9 May 2024

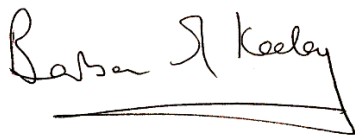
³ HM Government, [Government response to the House of Lords Communications and Digital Committee report on 'The future of news'](#), 29 January 2025

current parliamentary session”, but would look to learn lessons from international best practice, as well as the Private Member’s Bill introduced by the then Labour MP Wayne David in the 2019–24 Parliament.⁴ In responding to this letter, I would be grateful if you would provide details of the work you have undertaken in this vein.

We are pleased that Baroness Stowell has succeeded in securing a Private Member’s Bill focused on tackling SLAPPs in the ballot held at the start of the new parliamentary session.⁵ We support fully her efforts to provide Parliament with a renewed opportunity to bring forward proportionate protections against this misuse of our legal system. There is strong support for such measures across the House.⁶ We therefore urge the Government to engage constructively with Baroness Stowell and wider stakeholders on this proposed legislation and will expect to be kept updated on progress in the coming weeks and months.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Baroness Keeley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Baroness Keeley

Chair, Communications and Digital Committee

⁴ [Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation Bill](#) [Bill 216 (2023–24)]

⁵ [Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation Bill](#) [HL] [Bill 29 (2026–27)]

⁶ UK Anti-SLAPP Coalition, [Over 100 peers call on the Government to back anti-SLAPP protections](#), 30 April 2026