

Simon Hoare MP

Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Sent by email

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6 March 2026

Dear Simon,

I'm getting in touch to share today's news on the outcome of judicial review proceedings by the Charity Commission in relation to two investigations we completed in 2024. We're pleased that the Court has refused permission for a judicial review.

As you recall, the Commission started legal proceedings as we were seeking to lay our reports before Parliament to highlight that it had not complied with the recommendations set out in our reports. Last September, we laid both reports before Parliament following a successful motion tabled by your committee.

The Court found that the Charity Commission's claim was academic in the legal sense and recognised PHSO's role to hold public bodies to account, including where organisations fail to comply with our recommendations. It has clarified that our decision to lay reports before Parliament does not require a new complaint of maladministration. We're extremely pleased to have this important principle affirmed.

Please find below for information our statement to press:

"One of our roles is to hold public bodies to account, acting on behalf of Parliament. This is an important principle to uphold, and the Court's decision supports that principle by refusing the Charity Commission's request for permission to judicially review."

"Our reports were laid before Parliament after failing to reach agreement on compliance with the Charity Commission."

"At the heart of what might seem like a matter of process are two people, Miss Hall and Mr Murray, who have suffered significant injustice. Securing resolution for the complainants remains the priority, alongside making sure the lessons identified in our investigations are implemented."



“While the Charity Commission has made some changes after our original reports, we hope the Commission will now focus on working constructively to fully comply with our reports and provide the assurance that the public are entitled to expect.”

Thank you for your committee’s engagement with us on this matter to date. Please let us know if you have any questions:

Kind regards,



Rebecca Hilsenrath
Chief Executive Officer
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

