Public Administration
and Constitutional Affairs
Committee

From the Chair
Simon Hoare MP

The Rt Hon Alex Norris MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of justice
102 Petty France
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Public Office (Accountability) Bill

On 13 October, the Independent Public Advocate (IPA), Cindy Butts, gave evidence to our committee on learning the lessons from major incidents and in particular the role the IPA may play in advocating for inquiries and helping to ensure that recommendation implementation has effective oversight and scrutiny.

During our discussions, she made a strong case for ensuring this new role is supported to be effective, including by being appropriately reflected in the Public Office (Accountability) Bill.

As a cross-party committee, we would support the proposals that ensure this in a way that creates a coherent framework that enables the IPA to fulfil the role intended by Parliament. We would support calls for change that would recognise the IPA within the statutory candour framework when exercising their statutory functions. We would also support calls for improving the transparency in deployment decisions of the IPA and strengthening resilience through appropriate resourcing of the office, whether through legislation or other means.

I am copying this letter to Catherine Atkinson MP, Chair of the Justice Select Committee.

Simon Hoare MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

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