

# Committee of Public Accounts

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 5776 Email [pubaccomm@parliament.uk](mailto:pubaccomm@parliament.uk) Website [www.parliament.uk/pac](http://www.parliament.uk/pac)

Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
2 Marsham Street  
SW1P 4DF

13 April 2021

By email only

Dear Home Secretary,

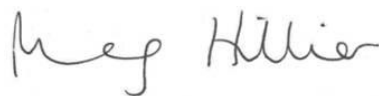
## **RE: Settlement of Sir Philip Rutnam's employment tribunal claim**

On 4 March, it was announced that the Government and Sir Philip Rutnam had reached a settlement regarding claims he brought against them following his departure. The settlement is reported to have totalled £340,000, plus costs. As chair of the Public Accounts Committee, I would be grateful if you could confirm:

- On what basis the Government chose to reach a settlement, rather than proceeding to trial, given that the maximum award by a tribunal is capped at well below the reported settlement figure?
- Whether the reference in your department's statement to "best interests" means that a settlement was viewed as more beneficial than the risks of going ahead with a trial?
- Whether the settlement was only made as a result of the Exit Pay Cap Regulations being revoked on 12th February 2021?
- Whether the settlement contains a confidentiality clause, which would seek to prevent the disclosure of information relating to the statement issued by Sir Philip's trade union on his departure, which referred to "a claim to the employment tribunal for unfair (constructive) dismissal and whistleblowing against the Home Secretary"?

I would be grateful for a response by 27 April, which the Committee would expect to publish together with this letter on its website. I am copying this to the chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Yours sincerely,



**MEG HILLIER MP**  
**CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**