



Women and Equalities Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From the Chair

27 April 2021

Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose
Minister for Women
Government Equalities Office (by email)

Committee inquiry into the role of the Government Equalities Office

Dear Baroness Berridge,

It is disappointing that you are unavailable to attend our oral evidence session alongside the Minister for Women and Equalities on 25 May, and that despite giving more than three months' notice of the session we have been unable to agree an alternative date. This is particularly concerning given that our inquiry is examining the governance and structures of the GEO and wider Equality Hub, in which your role is key.

In lieu of oral evidence, I would appreciate your reply to the questions below **no later than Monday 17 May**, to aid our preparation for our evidence session with the Minister for Women and Equalities.

I should be grateful if you could set out:

1. Your current priorities in your role as Minister for Women.
2. How much of your working time as a Minister is devoted to your GEO role? In a typical month how much time do you devote to this role, compared to your role in the Department for Education?
3. How do you divide your working time between specific women's equality policies or projects and stakeholder engagement? How many equality-related stakeholder meetings do you attend in a typical month?
3. Which Inter-ministerial Groups do you attend at which women's equality issues are addressed? How often do these groups meet?
4. How often have you met with the Minister for Women and Equalities to discuss progress across government in relation to your equalities brief?

5. How often do you, the Minister for Women and Equalities and the Minister for Equalities meet as a ministerial team to discuss equalities issues and priorities for your respective equalities briefs?

6. How many staff, at what grades, and in which departments, support you in your equalities role?

7. How will the equalities agenda be driven by the new No. 10 Delivery Unit?¹

I look forward to receiving your reply and to developing a more cooperative relationship in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee

¹ "PM to create No. 10 unit to push through policy agenda", *The Guardian*, 21 April 2021