

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Cc:**

LUCAS, Caroline  
03 June 2021 10:36

**Subject:**

RE: Correspondence from the Chair of the Procedure Committee

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter of 25<sup>th</sup> May, in response to the concerns we raised about accountability.

We wanted to specifically follow up on the example you cite of Members' capacity to bring substantive motions criticising the conduct of Ministers – you gave an example from June 2012 to illustrate. We do not deny that this mechanism exists, rather we wish to reiterate one of the points in our initial email, namely that such routes have limited impact when the government of the day has a substantial majority. As you will no doubt be aware, the example referenced led to a vote, and the motion was defeated 290 votes to 252. We consider that the influence of the Whips further renders such mechanisms unlikely to either result in objective consideration of the facts or to stand any significant chance of delivering genuine accountability.

Some of us were involved in the lengthy process of drawing up the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme and recall the levels of opposition to change and to finding ways of preventing MPs marking their own homework with regards responsibility for bullying, harassment and sexual harassment. We would assert that the same principles apply in relation to lying - and that, similarly, public opinion is in favour of Parliament doing the right thing and leading by example. It's welcome to hear that you will be looking at the Scottish system for correcting errors on the record, with a view to potentially introducing some improvements. We would urge you to go much further though, by proactively and extensively strengthening the means to protect truthfulness and integrity in our parliamentary system. This is something the public expect and deserve, and it would seem to us to be sensible to be showing leadership rather than waiting until a further scandal forces Parliament's hand and further damage is done to the reputation of the House of Commons and our democracy.

We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss these points further please.

With thanks for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,  
Caroline Lucas MP  
Ian Baker MP  
Ed Davey MP  
Liz Saville Roberts MP  
Colum Eastwood MP  
Stephen Farry MP