



Women and Equalities Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 6123 Email womeqcom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk

From the Chair

Thangam Debbonaire MP
Shadow Leader of the House of Commons

By email

20th July 2021

Dear Thangam,

Gender Sensitive Parliament (House of Commons) inquiry

Thank you very much for appearing before the Committee on 14th July to give evidence in the inquiry into a Gender Sensitive Parliament (House of Commons).

You are welcome to provide us with any further information following the session and we note the development since then in relation to recall of MPs following a finding of sexual misconduct.

We would be grateful in particular for your further views on:

- Whether there is a need to close the 'institutional deficit' (in the words of Professor Sarah Childs) so that there is one body to drive the agenda on gender sensitivity, deliver reform and hold others to account in a planned and transparent way?
- Is there currently a security gap needing to be closed so that it would be possible to exclude a Member of Parliament from the Parliamentary Estate while under investigation for sexual misconduct? This would be as a protective measure, similar to other workplaces, and not prejudice the outcome of any investigation.
- Do you draw a distinction between matters under investigation by the police (and therefore might apply to other serious crimes) and those under investigation by the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme?

Thank you again for your time in giving evidence to the Committee.

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP

Chair, Women and Equalities Committee