



## Procedure Committee

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From Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, Chair

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury

21 October 2021

Dear Rishi

As you will recall, prior to November 2017 the usual practice of the Government had been for the first of the Budget resolutions to be a general ‘Amendment of the law’ resolution. The omission of such a resolution has consequences for the scope of amendments to the Finance Bill and for the introduction of any new material not covered by the founding resolutions.

While this does not affect the scope of the debate on the Budget itself, the absence of an Amendment of the law resolution has attracted criticism from some backbench Members who observe that it restricts their ability, and that of the opposition parties, to propose amendments to the Government’s proposals in the Finance Bill or to propose reductions or other non-charging changes in taxation in areas not covered by the Budget resolutions. My Committee has received and considered representations on the matter.

It may be that the Government is minded to revert to the traditional practice of the House. If on the other hand it is now a matter of settled practice that an ‘Amendment of the law’ resolution is not to be included in the founding resolutions on which the Finance Bill is introduced, it would be helpful to have a clear statement and explanation of the Government’s rationale.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House and the Chairman of Ways and Means.

Yours sincerely

**Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP**