



LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL  
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
THE RT. HON. JACOB REES-MOGG M.P.



The Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley M.P.,  
Chairman, Procedure Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: JRM/NMP1962  
4 November 2021

*Jacob Rees-Mogg*

As you will be aware, as it stands, Members with a proxy vote cannot participate in proceedings in the Chamber without giving up their proxy because of the reference to "absence from the precincts of the House" in Standing Order 39A.

During a recent meeting with me, Stella Creasy expressed concerns that this was excluding her from participating in proceedings while on parental leave.

Given that the primary purpose of proxy voting is to support Members, there may be merit in making the scheme more flexible so that a Member, who is eligible for a parental proxy, can participate in questions, statements or debates, if they wished to do so, without having to stay on the precincts to participate in votes, which are often at the end of a sitting day.

I do understand that such a proposal might have unintended consequences, such as generating pressure and expectation on other Members on parental leave. I would, therefore, be grateful if the matter could be considered in greater detail by your Committee as part of your current inquiry.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you further.

With every good wish,

*JRM*  
*JRM*