



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon, Karen Bradley MP

Chair of the Procedure Committee

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

10th Jan 2023

Dear Karen,

I am in no doubt that you and members of the committee will have considered the ways in which the House ensure that Members of the Commons can hold Ministers to account, critically in light of the appointment of the Foreign Secretary via the House of Peers.

It is on that specific matter that I am writing to you and the committee. I am hope that members will be aware of the ongoing detention of my constituent Jagtar Singh Johal in India since 2017. It has a been a difficult near 7 years for Jagtar and his family in Dumbarton and over these years we have sought to work with the myriad number of Foreign Secretaries and Under Secretaries as they come and go from office for a whole range of reasons.

The family and I have sought to conduct ourselves in a professional manner when engaging previous Ministers and indeed with a little effort that approach has been welcomed and engagement has been forth coming. That said, with the appointment of the new Foreign Secretary to the House of Peers difficulties have started to impact Ministerial engagement, I draw to your attention my point of order on the 10th January 2024 regarding the extraordinary lack of response to letters relating to the case.

With that I wonder if you could advise, in its review of Secretaries of State in the house of Peers if the Procedure Committee has given formal consideration to making it possible if necessary via a change to standing orders for senior Cabinet Ministers in the House of Peers to come before the House to be held accountable?

As well as myself and the family of Jagtar Singh Johal many other members of the Commons will be interested in your response.

Sláinte, sonas agus beartas.

c.c. Mr Speaker

Martin Docherty-Hughes MP
Member of Parliament for West Dunbartonshire | Scottish National Party