



# HOUSE OF LORDS

Select Committee on the Constitution

Dear Chris,

## **Select committee power to send for persons, papers and records**

Thank you for the Committee of Privileges report and consultation on the above matter. Your consultation of Lords select committees is appreciated.

The matter was considered by the Constitution Committee (which I chair), the Liaison Committee (chaired by the Senior Deputy Speaker) and the Chairs' Forum (also chaired by the Senior Deputy Speaker and comprising the chairs of all Lords committees). I write with the collective view of all three bodies.

We appreciated the circumstances in the House of Commons which have prompted consideration of this matter and are ourselves concerned about the willingness of some ministers to appear before House of Lords select committees in a timely manner. However, we are unanimous that legislating in this area would be a disproportionate and impractical response, which would raise significant constitutional issues by allowing the courts to consider proceedings in Parliament.

We hope this response is helpful and look forward to the outcome of your Committee's deliberations.

I am copying this letter to the Senior Deputy Speaker, Lord Gardiner of Kimble.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Taylor'.

Baroness Taylor of Bolton  
Chair of the Constitution Committee

21 July 2021