



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

RT HON KAREN BRADLEY MP
Staffordshire Moorlands

Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP
Chief Whip
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

1 July 2022

Dear Chris

We write as the only two Conservative female Select Committee Chairs, and as senior Parliamentarians deeply concerned that standards of behaviour are upheld across the House.

Recent incidents have demonstrated an inconsistent and unclear approach by the Party to instances of sexual misconduct. The Party and, by extension, the Government are at risk of serious reputational damage by the current approach. We urge you to act swiftly to introduce a code of conduct for all Conservative Members of Parliament which is clear in terms of the expectations of behaviour and which can be applied in a fair, independent manner so as to avoid any suspicion of bias.

In the meantime we ask that you employ a policy of zero tolerance on these issues and to ensure a thorough investigation is carried out in each and every case. Once an investigation has been completed, a decision should be taken about returning the whip, but in the meantime, anyone subject to such an investigation should not be allowed to sit as a Conservative MP and represent the party in any capacity.

We understand the need for discretion where an allegation is being investigated by the police but would ask that you properly police your request for those involved in such investigations to stay away from Parliament, including not using their proxy votes in Party votes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Bradley Caroline".

The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP

The Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP

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