Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Leader of the House
House of Commons

12 September 2019

Dear Jacob,

Parliamentary standards: confidentiality and disclosure

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards has submitted to the Committee on Standards a draft paper (which I enclose) on issues relating to confidentiality and disclosure in cases under the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme (ICGS) as well as in non-ICGS cases.

You will see that in her draft paper the Commissioner draws attention to the difficulties she has encountered as a result of the House’s decision on 19 July 2018 to restrict the information she can publicly provide on non-ICGS cases. The Committee also is deeply concerned about this situation.

The Committee’s intention had been to produce a Report to the House commenting on the Commissioner’s paper and making recommendations. However, in view of the continuing uncertainty as to whether the present Parliament will continue, we have agreed to publish the Commissioner’s draft paper, together with consultation responses from trade unions representing House of Commons staff, on the Committee’s website, for information. If the Parliament continues through the autumn, we will resume work on this matter with the aim of producing a Report.

I am copying this letter to Mr Speaker, in his capacity as Chair of the House of Commons Commission, to the Leader and Shadow Leader of the House, and to the Clerk of the House in his capacity as head of the House of Commons Service.

Yours ever,

KATE GREEN MP
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS