Dear Maria,

I am delighted to inform you that the Prime Minister will tomorrow announce the creation of an Office for Tackling Injustices. This is a new organisation that will hold the Government and wider society to account for tackling key social injustices.

Despite the great progress we have made in promoting fair treatment for all in the UK, we know that too many of our citizens are still held back by the injustice of unequal treatment on the grounds of their socio-economic background, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

The Prime Minister has spoken of her determination to tackle these ‘burning injustices’. But all Governments should work to end the injustices that continue to characterise our country for too many. The Office for Tackling Injustices (OFTI) will focus minds on how to create a fairer country in the decades to come.

By shining a light on data on injustices and monitoring change, the OFTI will provide evidence-based challenge to future governments and wider society to tackle disparities in social and economic outcomes. Data is a hard, sometimes uncomfortable fact, but publishing it and communicating it clearly forces government and others to hold a mirror up to their own performance and challenge themselves to do better.

The OFTI will have a remit covering social injustices relating to ethnicity, gender, disability, socio-economic background and LGBT. As well as annually delivering a data-driven report on progress to Parliament, the OFTI will also publish thematic studies into issues relevant to its mandate. It will make use of relevant published data from various public authorities, monitoring trends and considering the underlying causes and drivers for them.
I will be the lead minister for the work of the OfT and I hope that there will be a role for the Women & Equalities Select Committee in scrutinising its work. I look forward to working together on this in the future.

[Signature]

RT.HON. PENNY MORDAUNT MP