

## An update from ICGS Director Jo Willows on non-recent cases

10 March 2022



It has been a year since Alison Stanley wrote her [18 month independent review of the ICGS](#), and 28 of her 33 recommendations have now been implemented.

An important recommendation implemented in April 2021 was the agreed time limit for non-recent cases of bullying and harassment. Up until 28 April 2022, there will continue to be no time limit on lodging non-recent cases (this has applied since non-recent cases were eligible under the scheme in October 2019). This has ensured that long-standing complaints that had not previously been addressed or had the system in place to be addressed, such as the case of John Bercow, could be investigated.

However, [as was agreed on the floor of the House on 27 April 2021](#) from 28 April 2022, there will be a time limit of one year from when the bullying and harassment incident (or the latest of those incidents) happened. This is to ensure investigations are conducted in a timely manner, and that evidence can be collected efficiently. It is therefore extremely important that, if you want to make a complaint concerning bullying and harassment that happened more than one year ago, you must phone the helpline before 28 April 2022. There is no time limit to make a complaint concerning sexual misconduct.

The helpline is there for all of us. Please use it.

## ICGS Cases

This is a significant moment in the life of the Independent Complainants and Grievance Scheme.

Since its implementation in July 2018, the ICGS has completed over 100 cases concerning bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct. Most investigations are not made public; seven cases involving MPs as respondents considered by the [Independent Expert Panel](#) (IEP) have been made public. Three of those cases involving the behaviour of the former Speaker of the House of Commons were part of the IEP's report, published on Tuesday 8 March. [The report](#) found that the former Speaker had bullied three people over a sustained period of time, on numerous occasions.

## ICGS Helpline

I hope that this report will give everyone who is or was a member of the parliamentary community trust and confidence in the ICGS. You can call the independent [ICGS helpline](#), anonymously if you like and as many times as you like, to ask for advice and information. You can also make a formal complaint about behaviour that you have experienced. Your calls will be treated confidentiality and empathetically. For more information please visit the [UK Parliament website](#).