



Committee on Standards
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COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT
**From the Chair of the Committee on Standards and the Parliamentary
Commissioner for Standards**

Process for Investigating Allegations made against MPs

The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards is responsible for deciding whether or not there is sufficient evidence that there may have been a breach of the Code of Conduct to justify an Inquiry. This is a decision for her alone.

If the Commissioner decides to conduct an inquiry, she will need to assemble evidence, including complete transcripts of the meetings on which recent reports have been based. In the past, broadcasting organisations have taken up to 5 weeks to release such transcripts to the Commissioner. The Commissioner's procedures for investigation are designed to be fair and open. The Commissioner shares the evidence she has gathered with the individual under inquiry and gives them an opportunity to comment on that evidence before she, or the Committee, reaches any conclusions.

Any investigation will inevitably continue into the next Parliament. The Committee on Standards has agreed that any memorandum will be submitted to its successor Committee on completion.

Kathryn Hudson

Kevin Barron MP

FURTHER INFORMATION:

1. Committee Membership is as follows:

Kevin Barron (Chair)
Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Christopher Chope
Mr Tom Clarke
Mr Geoffrey Cox
Sharon Darcy (Lay member)
Mr Dominic Grieve

Sir Nick Harvey
Fiona O'Donnell
Peter Jinman (Lay member)
Walter Rader (Lay member)
Sir John Randall
Dr Alan Whitehead

2. More information on the Committee, including publications, can be found on the Committee website at: www.parliament.uk/standards

Media Enquiries: Liz Parratt. Tel 07917 488978, parrattl@parliament.uk

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Publications / Reports / Reference Material: Copies of all select committee reports are available from the Houses of Parliament Shop (12 Bridge St, Westminster, 020 7219 3890) or The Stationery Office (0845 7023474). Committee reports, press releases, evidence transcripts, Bills, research papers, a directory of MPs, plus Hansard (from 6am daily), and much more, can be found on www.parliament.uk