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Summary

I started an inquiry on 24 February 2022, following a complaint received on 7 February 2022, that Ms Rachel Reeves MP had breached paragraph 14 of the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament. It was alleged that Ms Reeves provided inaccurate information to the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests following a donation from the company CEG, for the printing and postage of Christmas cards. Specifically, the Companies House registration number provided by Ms Reeves did not match the company details she had provided on her register entry.

5 A review of Ms Reeves' Register entry also found that since January 2020 (the first register after 2019 general election), Ms Reeves had registered the following financial interests outside of the 28-day timeframe set by the House:

- A donation from CEG for the printing and postage of Christmas cards
- 15 • A donation from Trevor Chinn for the provision of research and writing services
- A donation from GMB Yorkshire for a piece of research work

I sought comments from Ms Reeves who promptly acknowledged and apologised for the late entries. Ms Reeves provided an explanation for the inaccurate and late entries, and outlined the measures she had put in place to ensure the accurate and timely registration of future interests. I also sought information from the Office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests who, in addition to providing the information requested, informed me that, in accordance with procedure, the register entry relating to Mr Chinn was due to be removed from the Register.

20 Having considered the information available to me, I concluded that Ms Reeves had failed to accurately register the donation from CEG. I also concluded that Ms Reeves did not register the interests outlined above within the 28-day deadline set by the House, and consequently breached paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct.

Based on the evidence available to me, Ms Reeves' breach of the Code of Conduct was inadvertent, and I have decided to conclude my inquiry by way of the rectification procedure, which is available to me under Standing Order No 150. When reaching my decision, I considered the historic nature of the donations from the GMB (no longer on the register), and the donation from Mr Chinn (due to be removed from the register). I also took into consideration Ms Reeves apology, explanation for her error registering the donation from CEG, and her undertaking that future interests will be registered on time and accurately. I have asked the Registrar to arrange for the relevant entry in the Register of Members' Financial Interests to be placed in bold italics, so it would be clear it had been the subject of an inquiry.

Ms Rachel Reeves MP: Resolution Letter

Letter from the Commissioner to the complainant, 31 March 2022

5 I wrote to you on 24 February 2022 to tell you that I had begun an inquiry into your allegation that Ms Rachel Reeves MP had breached paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members.

10 Ms Reeves has acknowledged and apologised for her breach of the rules and taken steps to avoid any recurrence. The full rationale for my decision can be found in my letter to Ms Reeves, dated 15 March 2022 (item 9 in the written evidence pack), which you can access once the evidence pack has been published.

15 I consider this breach to be at the less serious end of the spectrum and have decided that this inquiry should be concluded through the rectification procedure, available to me through House of Commons' Standing Order No 150. I will publish my decision and the written evidence pack shortly on my [webpage](#) and I will report the outcome to the Standards Committee in due course.

20 Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. I confirm that the matter is now closed.

Written evidence

1. Email from the complainant to the Commissioner, 7 February 2022

5 Dear Commissioner, I note that Rachel Reeves MP has recently placed on the register of interest a donation she received of over £2,400 for Christmas cards from a Scottish registered company called CEG, she lists the registered address of this company in Leeds, England.

Reeves, Rachel (Leeds West)

2. (a) Support linked to an MP but received by a local party organisation or indirectly via a central party organisation

Name of donor: Victor Blank
 Address of donor: private
 Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £25,000 to the central Labour Party to pay the salary of a member of staff in my parliamentary office
 Donor status: individual
 (Registered 28 January 2022)

2. (b) Any other support not included in Category 2(a)

Name of donor: Richard Parker
 Address of donor: private
 Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000 to support the office of the Shadow Chancellor
 Date received: 21 January 2022
 Date accepted: 21 January 2022
 Donor status: individual
 (Registered 24 January 2022)

Name of donor: CEG
 Address of donor: Number One, Great Exhibition Way, Kirkstall Forge, Leeds LS5 3BF
 Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Printing and postage of my 2021 Christmas cards, total value £2,482.80
 Date received: 20 December 2021
 Date accepted: 20 December 2021
 Donor status: company, registration SC429408
 (Registered 27 January 2022)

10 A quick check with Companies House confirms this address is not the official registered address for the company but that their correct address is 3 Gordon Avenue, Hillingdon Park, Glasgow, Scotland, G52 4TG.

Would it be appropriate for your offices to open an investigation into the MPs interests and the correct location of all donations sourcing as with limited knowledge believe this registration would contravene the rules,

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter,

15 7 February 2022

2. Letter from the Commissioner to Rachel Reeves MP, 24 February 2022

5 Following receipt of an allegation I have received from [details redacted] about your compliance with paragraph 14 of the House of Commons Code of Conduct for Members, I have decided to open a formal inquiry. I enclose a copy of [details redacted] submission.

In response to [details redacted] complaint, I undertook a review of your register entry and noted that in addition to the matter raised by [details redacted] there appeared to be three occasions when you failed to register financial interests within the 28-day deadline set by the House.

10 **The scope of my inquiry**

My inquiry will focus on whether by failing to:

- Submit accurate details about CEG, a company that had donated the printing and postage of your Christmas cards
- 15 • Register the donation from CEG for the printing and postage of Christmas cards within the 28-day time limit set by the House
- Register a donation from Trevor Chinn for the provision of research and writing services between 6 April and 30 November 2020 within the 28-day time limit set by the House
- 20 • Register a donation from GMB Yorkshire for a piece of research work within the 28-day time limit set by the House

you have acted in breach of paragraph 14 of the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members. If the scope of my inquiry changes, I will update you in writing.

The relevant rules of the House

25 The overarching rules are found in the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members. Paragraph 14 of the Code states:

30 *"Members shall fulfil conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the registration of interests in the Register of Members' Financial Interests. They shall always be open and frank in drawing attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, and in any communications with Ministers, Members, public officials or public office holders."*

The Guidance

The Guide to the rules relating to the conduct of Members (“the Guide), which is appended to the Code, contains more detail about registration. Chapter 1, paragraph 2 states:

5 **Requirements of the House**

10 *2. The House requires new Members, within one month of their election, to register all their current financial interests, and any registrable benefits (other than earnings) received in the 12 months before their election. **After that, Members are required to register within 28 days any change in those registrable interests.** Such a change includes both the acquisition of a new interest and the ceasing of any registered interest, for example because an employment has ceased or because a holding has reduced in value or been sold. [My emphasis]*

Category 3 adds

15 *26. Members are required to provide the following information:*

a) The name and address of the donor;

...

Next steps

20 I would welcome your comments on the allegation that your alleged actions have amounted to a breach of paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members. I would also be grateful for your answers to the following specific questions:

1. Please provide the correct details for the organisation that donated the printing and postage of your Christmas cards.
- 25 2. Please provide an explanation for the discrepancy in the details provided for CEG.
3. Are you aware of the requirement to register all new financial interests within 28 days? If so, please explain why you have not registered these interests within that timeframe?
- 30 4. Please detail what steps you will now take to ensure your entry on the Register is up to date in future.

It would be helpful to receive any evidence to support your responses when you reply to this letter. Any other points you wish to make to help me with this inquiry would also be welcome.

Important information

5 My inquiries are conducted in private. However, following the decision taken by the House on 21 April 2021, I will shortly publish on my webpages the fact that I am conducting an inquiry about your alleged breach of the Code of Conduct. If contacted, my office will not comment on any aspect of this specific inquiry to third parties. They will answer direct factual questions about the processes I follow, and
10 the standards system more generally, but will not provide any comment or details about the particulars of this inquiry.

This letter and any subsequent correspondence between us in connection with this inquiry is protected by parliamentary privilege. It should be kept confidential until the outcome of my inquiry is published. The same requirement extends to [details
15 redacted].

The Members' Services Team (MST) can support and signpost you and/or your staff to appropriate support services. You can contact them confidentially [details redacted] for a range of issues, including support with handling the impact of media attention.

20 Procedure

I enclose a copy of the Commissioner's Information Note, which sets out the procedure for inquiries. Please note that this has not yet been updated to reflect the changes flowing from the decision of 19 July 2018.

25 While I do not, at this stage, know whether it will be necessary to interview you about this matter, it would be open to you to be accompanied at any such interview. I am, of course, very happy to meet with you at any stage if you would find that helpful.

I should say now, as a matter of courtesy, that I may seek the advice of the House authorities and others as part of this inquiry. If I do so, I will share that
30 correspondence with you.

Information provided to me during the course of my inquiry will be retained, and disposed of, in accordance with the House of Commons' Authorised Records Disposal Policy.

Potential outcomes

Inquiries are generally concluded in one of three ways. If the evidence does not substantiate the allegation, it will not be upheld. If the evidence demonstrates a breach of the rules, I may, in circumstances defined by Standing Order No. 150, uphold the allegation and conclude the inquiry using the rectification procedure, without making a referral to the Committee on Standards. Where an allegation is not upheld or is rectified, the investigation material, including our correspondence, will be published on the Parliament website.

If I uphold the allegation, and it is either unsuitable for the rectification procedure, or you do not accept my decision, I must make a referral to the Committee on Standards. My memorandum to the Committee will be published as an appendix to the Committee's own Report.

Regardless of the outcome of my inquiry, I must emphasise that all the relevant evidence, including our correspondence, will be published when this inquiry is concluded. I routinely redact the personal data of third parties unless it is relevant to my decision. Please tell me if you provide sensitive material that you think I should redact. I will consider carefully any such request.

Action

I would be grateful to have your response to this letter as soon as possible and no later than 7 March 2022. Please let me know before that date if you require more time to respond.

If you would prefer me to communicate with you by email, or via a different postal address, please give the details when you reply to this letter. It would also be helpful if you were willing to provide a telephone number through which I might contact you.

I would be grateful if you could send your response electronically to; standardscommissioner@parliament.uk

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

24 February 2022

30 **3. Letter from Rachel Reeves MP to the Commissioner, 25 February 2022**

Thank you for your letter of 24 February regarding the inquiry into my register of members' interests.

I have addressed the questions you have raised below. I also wanted to convey my sincere apologies for registering these donations late and mistakenly providing the wrong address.

In response to your questions:

- 5 1. The correct address is Sloane Square House, 1 Holbein Place, London, SW1W 8NS
2. The discrepancy in the information provided was a result of us using the local address of the firm rather than the one registered with Companies House.
- 10 3. I am aware of the need to register new financial interests within 28 days. I will address each instance of late declaration in turn:
- Printing and postage. This was caused because we mistakenly believed that the donation date was when payment was made to the printer for the cards rather than when the cards were delivered.
 - 15 • Research and writing services. As explained to the Registrar when making the declaration, this was caused by a combination of maternity cover in my team and disrupted working patterns as a result of the pandemic. I realise now that I should have also highlighted this to you at the time, in addition to notifying the Registrar.
 - 20 • Research work. This declaration was made in August 2019 by a former member of staff, and as such I am unable to identify the reason behind the late declaration.
4. Since receiving your letter yesterday I have taken steps to strengthen the process of registering my financial interests with a view to avoiding these mistakes in the future. This includes assigning responsibility to the most senior member of my team, and ensuring all entries are double-checked by myself and another member of the team before being submitted.
- 25

Once again, I can only apologise for these oversights, which I can assure you will not happen again. I recognise the importance of these rules, and the fact they must be adhered to at all times.

30 *25 February 2022*

4. Letter from the Commissioner to Rachel Reeves MP, 28 February 2022

Thank you for your letter dated 25 February 2022 and for the information that you have provided, including the alternative address for CEG.

Having reviewed the information, I note that neither of the addresses that you have provided for CEG match the details registered under the Companies House reference number on your register entry. In view of this, please can you confirm whether the correct company is CEG, registered at the addresses given, or CEG(UK), Companies House reference number SC429408, which you provided to the Registrar. Please also confirm the correct details.

In the meantime, this matter remains protected by Parliamentary Privilege and should continue to be kept confidential.

28 February 2022

10 **5. Letter from Rachel Reeves MP to the Commissioner, 28 February 2022**

Please accept my sincere apologies for this confusion. The Companies House reference number in the register entry is incorrect and refers to an alternative company also called CEG.

The correct details for the company which made the donation in kind to me are:

15 **COMMERCIAL ESTATES GROUP LIMITED**

Company number: **02404081**

Registered office address: **Sloane Square House, 1 Holbein Place, London, SW1W 8NS**

28 February 2022

20 **6. Letter from the Commissioner to the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests, 1 March 2022**

I am currently undertaking an inquiry into the register entry of Ms Rachel Reeves MP. A review of the entries included on Ms Reeves' register from January 2020 (the date of the last general election) identified 3 late entries registered between 20 June 2019 and 20 December 2021.

In response to my initial inquiries, Ms Reeves said that, when registering a donation from Mr Trevor Chinn in February 2021, she provided the Registrar with an explanation for the late submission. In view of this, and to assist me with my inquiry, please provide the following information:

- 30 1. A copy of any correspondence between Ms Reeves and the Registration team relating to the registration of the donation by Mr Chinn.

It would be very helpful to have your reply by 8 March 2022.

Thank you for your assistance.

1 March 2022

7. Letter from the Commissioner to Rachel Reeves MP, 1 March 2022

5 In my letter to you of 24 February 2022, I said that I may seek the information from the House authorities as part of my investigation. Today I have written to the Registrar for further information and a copy of that letter is included for your information.

10 Once I have received the Registrar's reply, I will write to you again regarding the next steps. In the meantime, this matter remains protected by Parliamentary Privilege and should continue to be kept confidential.

1 March 2022

8. Letter from the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests to the Commissioner, 3 March 2022

15 Thank you for your letter dated 1 March 2022, in relation to your investigation into Rachel Reeves MP.

You asked for:

1. A copy of any correspondence between Ms Reeves and the Registration team relating to the registration of the donation by Mr Chinn.

20 I have attached as an Annex the correspondence between the Registry Office, Ms Reeves and the office of Ms Reeves MP on that registration.

I hope this is helpful.

Enclosure 1: Emails between the office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests and the office of Rachel Reeves MP

25 From: [Rachel Reeves MP]

Sent: 9 February 2021 4.05pm

To: [The office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests]

Subject: Declaration of a Contribution in Kind - Rachel Reeves MP

Good afternoon,

I hope you are well.

I would like to declare the following contribution in kind. Please do let me know if there are any issues with this.

5 Name of donor: Trevor Chinn Address of donor: private

Amount of donation, or nature and value if donation in kind: Provision of research and writing services between 6 April 2020 and 30 November 2020, total value £25,370.

Date received: 6 April 2020 – 30 November 2020

10 Date accepted: 6 April 2020 Donor status: individual (Registered 30 November 2020)

Kind regards,

From: [The office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests]

15 Sent: 10 February 2021 11.58am

To: [Rachel Reeves MP]

Subject: RE: Declaration of a Contribution in Kind - Rachel Reeves MP

Dear Ms Reeves

We are good thanks and hope you and your team are keeping well too.

20 Before we can add this donation to the Register, we will need the address at which Sir Trevor was registered to vote when you accepted this support on 6 April 2020. Please could you email this to us?

We will share the address with the Electoral Commission, but it will not be published.

25 Kind regards

From: [Rachel Reeves MP]

Sent: 10 February 2021 12.52pm

To: [The office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests]

Subject: RE: Declaration of a Contribution in Kind - Rachel Reeves MP

5 Dear [name redacted]

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. Sir Trevor's address is [details redacted].

I trust that this can now be processed.

Best wishes,

10

From: [The office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests]

Sent: 12 February 2021 14.28am

To: [Rachel Reeves MP]

Subject: RE: Declaration of a Contribution in Kind - Rachel Reeves MP

15 Thank you Ms Reeves

This donation will be included in next week's online version of the Register (dated 15 February 2021).

20 You have provided the dates of receipt and acceptance, so I have assumed that this support was given direct to you and placed the details under Category 2(b). But let me know if it came via a Labour Party organisation, like your CLP, and I will move the details to 2(a).

25 Because this donation has been registered well outside of the timescale approved by the House, the Registrar has asked me to find out from you why this support was not registered, as required by the rules, within 28 days of the value exceeding £1,500. It would also be useful to know whether you had the services of a single person, or whether you drew on services on an ad hoc basis.

Best wishes

[Name redacted]

Reeves, Rachel (Leeds West)

1. Employment and earnings

5 31 March 2020, received £4,025.83 from Bloomsbury Publishing Plc,
50 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP, as royalties for a book.
Hours: no additional hours. (Registered 01 April 2020)

2. (b) Any other support not included in Category 2(a)

Name of donor: Trevor Chinn

Address of donor: private

10 Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind:
Provision of research and writing services between 6 April 2020 and
30 November 2020, total value £25,370

Date received: 6 April 2020 – 30 November 2020

Date accepted: 6 April 2020

15 Donor status: individual

(Registered 10 February 2021)

From: [The office of Rachel Reeves MP]

Sent: 12 February 2021 3.42pm

20 To: [The office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests]

Subject: RE: Declaration of a Contribution in Kind - Rachel Reeves MP

Dear [name redacted]

Thank you for your email.

25 I can only apologise for this oversight. My colleague who handled this previously left
around May last year, and passed it on to another one of our colleagues, who was

taking this on, along with other aspects of my role, whilst I went on maternity leave from June last year. I think due to the pandemic, and the staff turnover, my colleague had not fully understood the handover and so misunderstood what this task entailed.

- 5 My apologies again for this mistake. I can confirm that these services were for a single person.

In future, I will be responsible for declaring any interests, and am keen to ensure that everything is in order. Would it be possible for us to speak on the telephone about the requirements of this role to ensure that this does not happen again?

- 10 Kind regards,

From: [The office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests]

Sent: 15 February 2021 12.08pm

To: [The office of Rachel Reeves MP]

- 15 Subject: RE: Declaration of a Contribution in Kind - Rachel Reeves MP

Dear [name redacted]

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly.

- 20 I will forward your apology and explanation to the Registrar and keep a copy on file. However, because registration is an MP's individual responsibility, she may want to email Ms Reeves separately.

I am always happy to talk you through any registration queries you have. Where necessary, I will seek the Registrar's advice too.

- 25 The Registrar runs online seminars on registration. Please let me know if Ms Reeves or you would be interested in attending one, and I will ask my colleague to contact you about any upcoming dates.

But please feel free to call or email us for advice in the meantime.

Best wishes

From: [The office of Rachel Reeves MP]

Sent: 15 February 2021 4.45pm

To: [The office of the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests]

Subject: RE: Declaration of a Contribution in Kind - Rachel Reeves MP

5 Dear [name redacted]

Rachel has also asked that I pass on the following apology to the Registrar on her behalf. Would you mind sending this on? Thanks, [name redacted].

Good afternoon,

10 *I wanted to express my sincere apologies for the delay in declaring this donation. Unfortunately, this appears to have occurred due to a combination of staff turnover and absence, resulting in a miscommunication of the responsibilities of this role.*

15 *I have spoken to my staff to express the importance of ensuring that all declarations are correct and within the relevant timescale, and I have instructed them to participate in the relevant training sessions. However, I understand that ultimately this is my responsibility, and I will make sure that this does not happen again.*

Thank you for the assistance and understanding that you have shown in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

3 March 2022

9. Letter from the Commissioner to Rachel Reeves MP, 15 March 2022

20 Thank you for your letters received 25 February and 1 March 2022, the additional information you have provided, and for apologising for your incorrect and late entries in the Register of Members' Financial Interests ("the Register").

25 I have received the information that I requested from the Registrar of Members Financial Interests ("the Registrar"), which I have enclosed for your information. In view of this, I now have sufficient information to decide whether you have acted in breach of paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament by:

- Providing inaccurate information to the Registrar about a company called CEG, who provided a donation of Christmas cards and postage

- Failing to register the donation of £ 2482.80 from CEG within the 28-day deadline set by the House.

In my letter to you dated 24 February 2022, I also referred to two additional late entries in the Register:

- 5
- A donation of £25,370, by Mr Trevor Chinn (private donor) for the provision of research and writing services between 6 April and 30 November 2020 within the 28-day deadline set by the House
 - A donation of £3,500, by GMB Yorkshire for a piece of research within the 28-day deadline set by the House
- 10
- Having considered the information available to me, including the fact that these are historical entries,¹ I have taken the view that it would not be proportionate to take any further action in these matters as they will no longer be on the Register to be rectified. However, I have taken them into account when making my decision on how to proceed with my inquiries.

15 **My decision**

I have considered our correspondence, the published rules and guidance and the evidence provided by the Registrar, which I have enclosed in full. I have decided that by providing inaccurate information about CEG and registering the donation outside of the 28-day time limit set by the House you have breached

20

paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members. However, for the reasons outlined below, I do not intend to refer this matter to the Standards Committee for consideration. Instead, I have decided to conclude this matter using the rectification process provided by Standing Order No. 150.

The House of Commons Code of Conduct and Guidance

25 Paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct states:

30 *“Members shall fulfil conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the registration of interests in the Register of Members’ Financial Interests. They shall always be open and frank in drawing attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, and in any communications with Ministers, Members, public officials or public office holders.”*

The Guide to the Rules states that the Member should include the name and address of the donor, and where the donor is a company, the company registration number.

Rationale

It was noted that there was a discrepancy in the information provided by you to the Registrar in relation to CEG; the address¹ and the company registration number² did not match. It was also noted that whilst you received and accepted the donation on 5 20 December 2021, you did not register it until 38 days later, on 27 January 2022.

With respect to the inaccurate information, you said that you had not used the address provided by Companies House, but instead recorded the local address, and I note that you have since clarified that the donation was made by CEG and provided the correct address and company registration number.

10 Turning to the late entry in the register, you said that the delay was caused by your mistaken belief that the relevant date for registration was the date of payment to the printer rather than the date the cards were received.

15 Having considered the information available, it is clear that the donation was registerable and should have been accurately registered on the Register of Members' Financial Interests within 28-days. It is also clear that the information provided was incorrect, and the donation was registered outside the 28-day deadline set by the House. This is a breach of paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct.

20 In your response to my inquiries, you have apologised to me for this inaccurate and late entry and outlined the new procedures that you have implemented to stop these failings reoccurring. This includes assigning responsibility to the most senior Member of your team and ensuring that all entries are double checked by you and another member of staff before submission.

Next Steps

25 I note and, on this occasion, accept the explanations that you have provided for the inaccurate and late registration of the donation from CEG. You have provided assurances that you have amended your procedures to ensure that, in future, you will register your interests accurately and in time. Having considered the information, I am satisfied, based on the evidence available to me, that there was no attempt to mislead.

30 As I explained above, Standing Order No 150 makes provision for me to conclude an inquiry without making a referral to the Committee on Standards in certain circumstances. This process is called rectification and requires the entries in the next publication of the Register to be amended to bold italic type and include an appropriate explanatory note. The amended entries will remain on the register 35 for a period of one year.

¹ The Address was for a company called CEG

² The Company Registration Number was for a company called CEG(UK)

In view of the above, I have decided that a referral to the Standards Committee is not necessary and that I can resolve this breach of the rules through rectification. To do so, the Committee would generally expect the Member to provide the following:

- a) Confirmation you have accepted my decision;
- 5 b) A clear acknowledgement that you have breached the rules;
- c) An apology for the breach; and
- d) Information of the steps you have taken to rectify the breach and to ensure there is no recurrence of the breach.

10 In your letters of 25 February 2022 and 1 March 2022, you acknowledged and apologised for the breach of the rules. You provided the correct company information, which I will share with the Registrar, as well as the details of the action you intend to take to prevent further late registration of interests, for which I would like to thank you. Therefore, in order to progress this through rectification, I will require the following action from you:

- 15 • Carefully review my decision and confirm in writing that you accept it;
- Include with your response an undertaking that future registrations of financial interests will be made in line with the requirements of the Guide to the rules.

20 If you are content for me to conclude the inquiry in this way or you have any comments on the information provided by the Registrar, please write to me with the above information as soon as possible and no later than 22 March 2022.

25 If you accept my decision, I will share a draft of my written evidence pack with you, so that you can check its factual accuracy before publication. I will also report the outcome to the Committee on Standards in due course as a matter of routine. Finally, I will ask the Registrar to arrange to annotate the relevant information in the Register.

30 If you do not accept my decision, you should tell me the reasons for that by reply. After which, I will prepare a memorandum to the Committee on Standards, so that they may consider the matter. I would give you the opportunity to see and comment on a draft of the memorandum, but the content of it would, in the final analysis, be for me alone.

In the meantime, our correspondence remains protected by parliamentary privilege, and I must ask that you continue to maintain the strict confidentiality of the inquiry.

I would be grateful if you could please send your response electronically to standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

15 March 2022

10. Letter from Rachel Reeves MP to the Commissioner, 16 March 2022

- 5 Thank you for your letter of 15 March, the contents of which I have carefully reviewed.

I can confirm that I accept your decision.

- 10 I would also like to take this opportunity to reassure you that all future registrations of financial interests will be made in line with the rules as set out in the Guide, and that I have put in place new arrangements in my team to ensure this happens.

16 March 2022