

Independent Expert Panel
Chair, Rt Hon Sir Stephen Irwin

Email independentexpertpanel@parliament.uk

Website: <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-financial-interests/independent-expert-panel>

Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Leader of the House and Lord President of the Council
House of Commons

7 September 2021

Dear Jacob

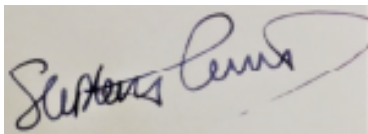
Recall of MPs Act 2015

I am writing to follow up our discussions and correspondence prior to the summer recess in relation to the interaction of the Recall of MPs Act 2015 with sanctions recommended by the Independent Expert Panel, and the fact that a suspension recommended by the Panel would currently not trigger the provisions of the Act.

As you know the Panel remains of the view that this issue should be ultimately settled definitively via legislation, as that will best underpin the independence of the Panel. However, in the interim, it is vital that the loophole is closed via a change in standing orders as soon as possible given that it is likely to be an issue in future cases the Panel will consider. It was therefore disappointing that the House was unable to agree the necessary amendments before the recess, and I would ask that they be brought forward now as soon as possible.

I would therefore be grateful for an update on when the Government intends to bring the matter back to the House.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Irwin', written over a light-colored background.

Stephen Irwin

Chair of the Independent Expert Panel