



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rushanara Ali MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
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Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public
Life

17 July 2025

Dear Doug,

I am pleased to announce the publication of the UK Government's *Restoring trust in our democracy: Our strategy for modern and secure elections*; a significant step forward in delivering our commitment to strengthening our democracy and upholding the integrity of our electoral system.

As I'm sure you will agree, our democratic processes are the foundation of public trust, confidence and civic engagement. This strategy sets out a clear vision for modern, secure and inclusive elections underpinned by transparency, resilience and fairness regardless of whether your role in an election is one of delivering, standing, campaigning or voting.

The strategy has been developed through close engagement with key stakeholders from across the electoral community, with civil society organisations and colleagues from across government.

A number of the proposals to strengthen donations rules and the role and powers of the Electoral Commission address recommendations put forward by your Regulating Election Finance report of 2021. For example, the Strategy sets out how we will act to strengthen enforcement of political finance rules by extending the role of the Electoral Commission to enforce offences relating to candidates, local third-parties and recall petition campaigners.

The Government will introduce stricter rules on political donations to prevent foreign interference. This includes "Know Your Donor" requirements for recipients of donations, tighter controls on company and unincorporated association donations, and enhanced transparency requirements for all donors to political parties. The reforms aim to close loopholes and enhance due diligence while preserving the ability of genuine donors to support democracy.

The strategy also sets out how we will act to tackle harassment and intimidation of those in public life. We will legislate to ensure that candidates, campaigners, elected representatives and electoral staff are adequately protected and that those who seek to abuse them are held to account. This will restore faith in our politics and ensure that the UK continues to be a thriving and diverse democracy.

Our aim is to deliver these commitments to futureproof our democracy, secure our elections and protect them against interference during the lifetime of this Parliament through a programme of electoral reform, including legislation to be brought forward during this Parliament. To implement these changes, we will work closely with our partners in local and devolved government, with the electoral sector and with education and civil society to ensure impacts are thoroughly considered and changes are successfully delivered.

I welcome the views of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. If you and your team have any questions on the strategy, please contact my office and we will connect them with the relevant officials.

Yours sincerely,



RUSHANARA ALI MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Homelessness and Democracy