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The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP

10 Downing Street

London

SW1A 2AA

13 March 2026

[sent by email]

Dear Prime Minister,

REVIEW INTO LOBBYING, DISCLOSURE AND ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

Thank you for your letter of 11th March, which followed the Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons on the same date. Today I convened a meeting of the Ethics and Integrity Commission. We welcome the Government's statement on strengthening the procedures that support high standards in public life and your request for the Commission to conduct an independent review to support this.

The areas that you have asked us to cover in the review, namely "*how ministers declare and publish their financial interests; how the government ensures transparency around lobbying; and ensuring the rules that govern post employment activity are fit for purpose, in respect of managing potentially improper access to, and influence within, government*", are areas where we, as the Committee on Standards in Public Life, have previously made recommendations. Many of which have remained unimplemented by successive

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governments. This review presents a good opportunity to revisit these recommendations alongside wider changes and new evidence.

We will, of course, seek the views of the standards bodies that oversee the current rules and guidance in these areas, including those that attend our Network of Standards Bodies. Given the urgency of the review we intend to focus our attention on the areas that will have the greatest impact. There may be some areas where we set out principles, some of which may prompt further evidence-based work. We think that consideration of these issues in this manner will make a valuable contribution to our common aim of promoting high standards in public life. As always, it is ultimately the adoption of the recommendations that emerge which makes the real difference.

It is of course important to get the findings of this review right. We intend to publish our final report in the usual way before the Summer Recess.

We will place a copy of this letter on the EIC's website.

Yours sincerely,



Doug Chalmers
Chair, Ethics and Integrity Commission