PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Thank you for your email about honesty and integrity in politics.

I understand your concern and completely agree that politicians should uphold strong values such as integrity and honesty.

In carrying out their parliamentary and public duties, all Members of Parliament are expected to observe the principles of conduct that apply to holders of public office. These include values such as selflessness, integrity, objectivity, honesty, accountability, openness and leadership. Members of Parliament are also expected to observe the principles set out in the Parliamentary Behaviour Code of respect, professionalism, courtesy, and understanding of other people's perspectives. The Prime Minister specifically follows the Ministerial Code, which includes the Nolan principles, when conducting himself in public life.

As Members of Parliament we take an oath when we are elected to the House of Commons, and it is our responsibility to always act in accordance with the public trust placed in us. We are also subject to the Code of Conduct which rightly includes a general duty on MPs to act in the interests of the nation as a whole with a special duty to our constituents, alongside a requirement that MPs act on all occasions in accordance with the public trust placed in them.

The operation of the Code of Conduct is overseen by the House of Commons Committee on Standards and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. If an MP is found to have breached the code, they may be subject to a range of disciplinary sanctions.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

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