

HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

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Sir Keir Starmer
Leader of HM Opposition
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

By email only to: [REDACTED]

8 November 2021

Dear Sir Keir,

PEERAGE VETTING STANDARDS

Thank you for your letter, received by the House of Lords Appointments Commission on 7 November.

The Commission is an independent non-statutory advisory body with responsibility for vetting nominations for life peers in line with its published criteria. It carries out a range of checks and advises the Prime Minister if it has any concerns about the propriety of a nominee. As you have referenced in your letter, the Commission takes the view that, in this context, propriety means that the individual should be in good standing in the community in general and with the public regulatory authorities in particular; and that the past conduct of the nominee would not reasonably be regarded as bringing the House of Lords into disrepute. The Commission plays no part in assessing the suitability of those nominated by the political parties, which is a matter for the parties themselves.

The Commission provides advice but does not have a veto. Ultimately, appointments are a matter for the Prime Minister. The Commission has committed to informing the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee in the case of any nomination which it cannot support and where the Prime Minister decides to recommend a peerage against this advice. This is to ensure transparency about the Commission's vetting processes.

In order to maintain the confidentiality of the Commission's vetting processes, we do not comment on who may be under consideration or the substance of individual cases. It would be highly unfair on individuals to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Chair, House of Lords Appointments Commission