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**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

By email

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Setting the Standard: Strategic Plan, Annual Report 2016-17, and Forward Plan 2017-18

I am pleased to enclose a copy of *Setting the Standard*, which includes our annual report for 2017-18, our forward plan for 2017-18, and our strategic plan.

The Committee has had a busy year. We published *Striking the Balance*, a 'healthcheck' of how regulatory bodies uphold the Nolan Principles; conducted follow-up research to our 2014 report and 2015 guidance on ethical standards for providers of public services; held a seminar on the conduct of referendums and an ethical standards induction session for newly elected MPs; and commenced a short review on the 'reasonable limits' for MPs' outside interests.

In 2017-18, we will publish the outcomes of our review on MPs' outside interests; undertake a review of local government standards, based on a public consultation to be launched in early 2018; and publish our follow-up research on ethical standards for providers of public services. We will also be looking for opportunities to work with others to consider how social media influences standards issues in public life; keep a watching brief on standards issues within academies and NHS commissioning; work with others to monitor standards issues around the conduct of referendums; and look for opportunities to promote reform of party funding.

The Committee has a broad remit, and so in choosing areas to focus on we seek to use our resources where we can have the greatest impact, often where scrutiny by other bodies or regulators is not already taking place.

Being alert to emerging standards issues is an important part of our work, and so I would be very pleased to hear from you with suggestions for particular issues that the Committee should consider, or if there are opportunities to collaborate with your organisation.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Bew
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life