



House of Commons
Committee on Standards and
Privileges

Ms Margaret Moran

**Second Special Report of Session
2010–2011**

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The Committee on Standards and Privileges

The Committee on Standards and Privileges is appointed by the House of Commons to oversee the work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; to examine the arrangements proposed by the Commissioner for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Interests and any other registers of interest established by the House; to review from time to time the form and content of those registers; to consider any specific complaints made in relation to the registering or declaring of interests referred to it by the Commissioner; to consider any matter relating to the conduct of Members, including specific complaints in relation to alleged breaches in the Code of Conduct which have been drawn to the Committee's attention by the Commissioner; and to recommend any modifications to the Code of Conduct as may from time to time appear to be necessary.

Current membership

Rt hon Kevin Barron MP (*Labour, Rother Valley*) (Chair)
Sir Paul Beresford MP (*Conservative, Mole Valley*)
Annette Brooke MP (*Liberal Democrat, Mid Dorset and North Poole*)
Rt hon Tom Clarke MP (*Labour, Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill*)
Mr Geoffrey Cox MP (*Conservative, Torridge and West Devon*)
Mr Jim Cunningham MP (*Labour, Coventry South*)
Matthew Hancock MP (*Conservative, West Suffolk*)
Mr Oliver Heald MP (*Conservative, North East Hertfordshire*)
Heather Wheeler MP (*Conservative, South Derbyshire*)
Dr Alan Whitehead MP (*Labour, Southampton Test*)

Powers

The constitution and powers of the Committee are set out in Standing Order No. 149. In particular, the Committee has power to order the attendance of any Member of Parliament before the committee and to require that specific documents or records in the possession of a Member relating to its inquiries, or to the inquiries of the Commissioner, be laid before the Committee. The Committee has power to refuse to allow its public proceedings to be broadcast. The Law Officers, if they are Members of Parliament, may attend and take part in the Committee's proceedings, but may not vote.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at: www.parliament.uk/sandp.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Mr Steve Priestley (Clerk), Miss Rhiannon Hollis (Second Clerk) and Ms Jane Cooper (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to The Clerk of the Committee on Standards and Privileges, Journal Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 6615.

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1. On 27 October, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards sent us a memorandum, reporting on his inquiry into allegations made against Ms Margaret Moran, concerning her use of Additional Costs Allowance when she was the Member for Luton South. On 28 October, we received a letter from the Metropolitan Police Service, informing us that they are investigating allegations about Ms Moran's claims and inviting us to consider the possible implications of publishing a Report on Ms Moran for the fairness of any potential criminal proceedings.

2. In accordance with procedures agreed in 2008 between the Committee on Standards and Privileges, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and the Metropolitan Police,¹ we have decided to postpone our consideration of the Commissioner's memorandum, to allow time for the question of possible criminal proceedings to be resolved.

¹ Eighth Report from the Committee, Session 2007–08, *The Complaints System and the Criminal Law*