



CHRIS BRYANT MP
Member of Parliament
for the Rhondda

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
020 7219 8315
chris.bryant.mp@parliament.uk

Garry Graham and Dave Penman
New Prospect House
8 Leake Street
London, SE1 7NN

Tuesday 22nd October 2019

Dear Garry and Dave,

Many thanks for your letter regarding the Speakership election. You raise important issues, all of which I will tackle if I am successful. I fully support the full implementation of the Cox report and although this is ultimately an issue for the whole of the House of Commons Commission, I will do everything in my power to ensure that this happens by next Easter.

We need to go further, though. Parliament, with its mixture of full-time, temporary and contract staff working directly for MPs and peers, for the media or for the House authorities, must be a place where every single person feels valued and safe from bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct. That means we must embed the very best practice in every strand of employment in Parliament as a matter of urgency. In addition to the limited support that is already provided I want to build up a proper Human Resources department that can assist all MPs in recruiting, employing and managing staff and can provide timely and effective advice to staff.

As Chair of the Finance Committee I have worked closely with a wide range of staff representatives and I am fully committed to working with the various staff bodies, including ParliOut, ParliReach and the Trades Unions, to ensure that these policies are fully implemented. I have also sought to ensure that all House staff, whether they are clerks, IT specialists, chefs or cleaners, are properly rewarded for their work – and I am conscious that much work still needs to be done to ensure that we are paying the rate for the job and providing a work environment and career progression that encourages people to continue working here.

Do get in touch if you have any specific concerns or suggestions.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Chris Bryant MP (Rhondda)