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Dear Sir Kevin,

### Recall of MPs

Thank you for meeting me to discuss the Government's proposals for the Recall of MPs. The Standards Committee is important to the success of the legislation and it was helpful to hear your views about the Committee's role in triggering a recall petition.

In the meeting we discussed your concerns that the 'second trigger' for recall in the draft Bill effectively leaves the job of establishing what constitutes serious wrongdoing to your Committee. I proposed an amendment to that trigger in the Bill which would, instead, mean that a recall petition opened automatically if the House (on a recommendation by the Standards Committee) suspended a member for a number of weeks and you indicated that such an amendment would address some of your own concerns. This approach has the benefit of linking recall to existing sanctions and would mean your Committee would not need to define where recall sits in relation to other penalties available,

As it would be desirable to resolve this point before the Bill is introduced, I would be grateful if you would seek the wider views of the Committee Members and let me know whether, if recall is linked to a period of suspension of 21 sitting days or more, this change would be supported by them.

**Rt Hon William Hague MP**  
First Secretary of State and Leader of the House of Commons

Rt Hon Sir Kevin Barron MP  
House of Commons



## Committee on Standards

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From Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP, Chair of the Committee

Rt Hon William Hague  
First Secretary of State and Leader of the House of Commons  
1 Horse Guards Road  
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15 October 2014

*Dear William*

The Committee on Standards discussed your letter of 13 August 2014 on recall at its meeting this morning and has asked me to reply to you, as a matter of urgency.

The Committee does not feel it is appropriate for it to take a view on whether or not the recall proposals contained in the Bill are desirable. We will operate within whatever framework the House sets.

Given that the second reading of the Bill takes place next week, we will be making this correspondence public shortly.

*Yours*  
*Kevin Barron*

CHAIR