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Session 2015–16

17 September 2015

## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY TELEGRAPH**

In its report today the Committee on Standards criticised the investigation of Sir Malcolm Rifkind and Mr Straw by Channel 4 Dispatches and the Telegraph because, among other reasons, the reporting was not fair and accurate. The Daily Telegraph's statement on our report contained a further inaccuracy, in claiming "Parliament still sees fit for MPs to be both judge and jury on their own conduct."

Investigations are carried out by the independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards who is not from the House of Commons staff and is appointed for a fixed term, non-renewable, contract, precisely so her investigations are not influenced by the hope of future employment. Three of the ten members of the Committee are lay members, who have no other connection with the Commons. The lay members played a full part in drawing up this report. Next year, the Committee will contain seven lay members and seven MPs.

The independent Commissioner based her assessment of the coverage on detailed [documentary evidence, including the transcript of the entire interviews](#), which are available on the Committee website.

**Kevin Barron MP**