

5th July 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment.

We recognise the extensive and varied challenges you will face and acknowledge that government resources are finite, as is your government's capacity to pass new laws.

However, trust is essential to a healthy democracy and good government, and we believe that as our Prime Minister, you can play a crucial role in restoring it.

This is not dependent on funding or legislative time and is key to unlocking the partnership working to which you have said you are committed.

To underline your manifesto commitment to 'a reset in public life and a clean up that requires the highest standards of integrity and honesty' we encourage you to make a clear statement in the House of Commons, very early in your term as PM, that:

- you expect all Ministers and MPs to follow the Nolan Principles of standards in public life, and will act decisively on any breaches and will put in place the new Ethics and Integrity Commission and other steps promised in your manifesto as soon as possible to ensure this.
- you will commit your government to abiding by the rule of law, including international humanitarian law, and you and your colleagues will respect the impartiality of the civil service and uphold the independence of the other institutions our democracy depends upon including the courts, civil society, and the BBC, at all times.
- you will commit to greater transparency and accountability, including being open in response to Freedom of Information requests, regularly reporting Ministerial interests, making announcements to Parliament before the media, and stopping the use of secondary legislation to avoid Parliamentary scrutiny.

- you will demonstrate by your actions, and that of your government, that you seek to unite the country rather than divide it, you will put the country before the party, and you will actively consult and engage with a range of partners, including civil society, to draw on their expertise, listen to the voices of those least heard in society, and demonstrate a willingness to work constructively with others.

We believe these four statements will demonstrate the new government is serious about creating a new style of government and cleaning up politics.

We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Benaifer Bhandari, CEO, Hopscotch Women's Centre

Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy

Daniel Bruce, CEO, Transparency International UK.

David Cutler, Director, The Baring Foundation

Matt Downie, CEO, Crisis

Sarah Elliott, CEO, National Council of Voluntary Organisations

Arvinda Gohil, Chair of the Future Economy Alliance

Tim Noar Hilton, CEO, Refugee Action

Darren Hughes, CEO, Electoral Reform Society

Jane Ide, CEO, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations

Neal Lawson, Director, Compass

Angela McConville, CEO, National Childbirth Trust

Jennifer Nadel, Co-Director, Compassion in Politics

Polly Neate, CEO, Shelter

Edmund Newell, CEO, Cumberland Lodge, Windsor

Tessy Ojo, CEO, The Diana Award

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain

Alberto Smith, Interim Chief Strategy Officer, Make Votes Matter

Danny Sriskandarajah, CEO, New Economics Foundation

Sir Anthony Seldon, historian and educationalist

Caroline Slocock, Director, Civil Exchange

Rosalind Stevens, Project Manager, Civil Society Alliance

Sue Tibballs, CEO, Sheila McKechnie Foundation