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PRIME MINISTER

10 June 2009

Dear Colleague

As I explained at Monday's PLP meeting, today I issued a statement to the House on democratic reform, a copy of which is enclosed.

We must restore the reputation of parliament by completing reform of MPs allowances. But we must go further, as agreed on all sides of the House, to move to an independent parliamentary standards authority with delegated powers.

Secondly, the House will be asked to agree a statutory code of conduct for all MPs. At the House of Lords' own request the SSRB have been asked to come forward with proposals for dealing effectively with inappropriate behaviour in the House of Lords.

As proposed by the Chairman of the Public Administration Select Committee we will work with a special parliamentary commission to take forward modernisation of the procedures of the House of Commons.

The Justice Secretary will set out plans to look at broadening the application of Freedom of Information to include additional bodies receiving public money.

Finally the government will set out proposals in the coming weeks for widespread debate on five issues:

- House of Lords reform
- Setting out the rights and responsibilities of British citizens
- Devolution of power and engaging people in their local communities
- taking forward the debate on our electoral system; and
- increasing public engagement in politics including improving registration and considering the voting age.

I expect to conclude in time to shape the Government's forward legislative programme and to feed into The Queen's Speech. I truly hope that all members of the PLP will take part in this debate, consult with party members and constituents and feed in their views on this important issue.

If you have comments, please send them to the PLP Office on plpresourcecentre@parliament.uk.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Brown