



**Dame Margaret Hodge MP**

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Kathryn Stone OBE  
Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards  
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9 December 2021

Dear Kathryn

I am writing to follow up on our correspondence from 29 April and 7 May this year regarding the renovations to the Downing Street flat. In my initial letter, I urged you to investigate the Prime Minister for falling short of the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament. In your response, you said that in order not to prejudice the Electoral Commission's investigation into the Conservative party, you would not take a view on whether or not to conduct your own inquiry.

You will be aware that the Electoral Commission today reported back from its investigation. The Commission found that the Conservative Party failed to declare £52,801.72. This money was found to be a donation from a company held by Lord Brownlow and was used to fund the refurbishment of the Downing Street flat. The Commission also found that 'decisions relating to the handling of these transactions reflected serious failings in the party's compliance systems'. That is a deeply concerning breach of electoral law that calls into question the funding and donations of the Conservative Party.

Now that the Electoral Commission has reported back, I once again urge you to look into the Prime Minister's own role in this matter. It appears that the Prime Minister may have lied. The Independent Adviser on Ministerial Standards, Lord Geidt, in his annual report stated that the Prime Minister told him he 'knew nothing about [the flat] payments until immediately prior to media reports in February 2021'. However, the Electoral Commission is now stating that the Prime Minister was in direct contact via WhatsApp with Lord Brownlow about the funding for the flat renovations in November 2020. If these allegations are true, then this would be an egregious case of dishonesty and a breach of the Nolan Principles.

If the Prime Minister knew about the funding in November 2020, then why did he not declare it in the Register of MP's Interest? And if he lied, has he not broken the MP's Code of Conduct? I request that you investigate the Prime Minister as a matter of urgency.

Best wishes,

Dame Margaret Hodge MP

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