



# HOUSE OF COMMONS

**Private & confidential**

Mr Mark Anthony Taylor  
Kalamata  
Billington Lane  
Derrington  
Stafford  
ST18 9LR

7 February 2017

*Dear Mr Taylor,*

**Our reference PCS523-525**

Thank you for your undated letter, which I received yesterday, setting out your concerns concerning the conduct of three MPs: Mr Bob Neill MP; Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP and Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP. I have seen the correspondence you have exchanged with my Complaints Manager, Gwen Harrison, about this matter.

I appreciate that you have reframed your complaint since your correspondence with Mrs Harrison but as she has already explained, my remit does not include consideration of complaints about how Government Ministers carry out their departmental and other ministerial duties. I may not consider complaints about the merits of decisions Ministers take in the course of their ministerial activities and this means that I cannot investigate your complaints about Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP and Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP. The capacity of these named MPs to take any action on the information you have submitted to them derives from their ministerial responsibilities, putting your complaints about them squarely outside my remit.

Your allegations about all three of the MPs you name rests on what you describe as a conflict of interest, arising from sponsorship which you say HSBC has given to the Conservative and Labour Parties. I do not consider your assertion that donations were given to the Conservative Party and to the Labour Party provides evidence of a conflict of interest which might amount to a breach of paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct by named MPs.

It may be helpful to say that MPs are required to register donations which are either made direct to them as individuals or that are made to either local or national political parties and

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associations which are "linked" to the MPs. (The relevant definitions can be found in chapter 1 of the Guide to the Rules relating to the conduct of Members, which you can see at <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmcode/1076/107601.htm> on the Parliament website.)

The requirements for MPs to register and declare relevant financial interests are explained in detail in the Guide to the Rules. These rules have been approved by Parliament and it is alleged breaches of these rules that I may consider. Alleged breaches of other matters are outside my remit. I have no authority to consider, as you suggest I should, whether various financial institutions have been implicated in unlawful financial transactions. (This is likely to be a matter for the police and the courts.) I also may not investigate your allegations about the various regulatory bodies about which you have also made allegations.

For these reasons, Mrs Harrison was correct in her assessment that it was unlikely I would be able to begin an inquiry into your allegations. I must now ask that you accept my decision as final; there is no right of appeal against my decision not to begin an inquiry.

*Yours sincerely*



**Kathryn Hudson**  
**Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**