

27th March 2025

Dear Lucy Powell MP,

The Modernisation Committee was established, in part, to drive up standards in the Commons. This is crucial to rebuilding the public's trust in our politics.

So far in this Parliament, constant stories about MPs and Ministers accepting freebies has only damaged the public's trust in our politics further.

Conflicts of interest are bound to arise when MPs are allowed to accept gifts and hospitality from private companies and wealthy individuals.

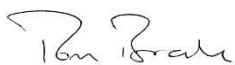
The Prime Minister updated the Ministerial Code to require Ministers consider the "need to maintain the public's confidence in the standards of propriety" before accepting gifts.

Yet as long as MPs can accept any gifts at all, the door remains open to sleaze and scandal.

A simple and clear ban on MPs accepting freebies would put an end to this problem and start the process of restoring the public's trust in our politics.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Brake - Director of Unlock Democracy