

Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Committee

Mary Robinson MP House of Commons London, SW1A 0AA

15 April 2024

Dear Mary,

Private Member's Bill: Whistleblowing

Thank you for your letter dated 21 March 2024 about your Private Member's Bill, the Whistleblowing Bill.

Further to the Committee's discussion at its meeting on Monday 25 March, I am writing to you, on behalf of the Committee members present at the discussion, to put on record our collective support for your Private Member's Bill.

Whilst the provisions of your Bill are primarily matters for the Department for Business and Trade, it is clear that other government departments including the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities must consider the benefits of an independent Office of the Whistleblower which would provide great reassurance for individuals acting in the public interest across the public sector.

There is a clear and urgent need for whistleblowers who speak up in the public interest to have greater protections. We are grateful for you to raising this as a member of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee including, most recently, <u>during a Committee oral evidence session with Lord Morse</u>, interim Chair of Oflog, as part of the Committee's inquiry into the Office for Local Government. I hope that you will continue to champion this important cause, including through our work together on the select committee.

Thank you again for bringing your Private Member's Bill to my attention.

Best wishes,

Clive Betts MP

Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

House of Commons Palace of Westminster Westminster SW1A 0AA

luhccom@parliament.uk +44 (0)20 7219 1975 Social: @CommonsLUHC parliament.uk