

Today, 2 June, we are sending the following letter to Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer and Ed Davey:

To The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak, The Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer, and Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Davey

May we respectfully suggest that, as part of your election campaigns, you undertake, in the event you remain or become Prime Minister, to take a new oath of office? It could be called 'The Prime Minister's Oath', comparable to the existing Lord Chancellor's Oath.

If the idea appeals to you, the following text might help:

THE PRIME MINISTER'S OATH.

To uphold the principle and practices of collective Cabinet government

*To uphold and respect the conventions and expectations contained in THE MINISTERIAL CODE, THE CABINET MANUAL, AND THE SEVEN NOLAN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE.**

To sustain the impartiality of the Civil and Diplomatic Services, the Intelligence and Security Services, and the Armed Forces and to have constant regard for THE CIVIL SERVICE CODE AND THE SPECIAL ADVISERS' CODE.

To account personally to Parliament and the House of Commons Liaison Committee, for all the above.

To uphold the rule of law in all circumstances.

This oath could be taken before the Speaker and the House of Commons on a suitable occasion soon after the Members of the new House have been sworn in.

Given the stress placed on some of the conventions of central government and the conduct of high office since the last election, this could serve as a swift and cost-free confidence-booster to the public's faith in the decencies and probities needed at the very heart of our system of government.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield, Queen Mary University of London
Prof. Andrew Blick, King's College London

Blick and Hennessy are the coauthors of the *Bonfire of the Decencies: Repairing and Restoring the British Constitution*, and are working on a forthcoming study, *The Kingfisher's Wings: Glimpsing the British Constitution in the 2020s*.

*The Seven Principles are: Selflessness; Integrity; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Honesty; and Leadership.