

Mr Speaker  
House of Commons  
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5 November 2019

Dear Mr Speaker,

We are writing to you to congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the House of Commons and to wish you well as you seek re-election in Chorley.

The British Safety Council exists to keep people as safe and healthy as possible in their work, through education and practical guidance – our vision is that no-one should be injured or made ill at work. We welcome the fact that you put wellbeing at the heart of your offer to MPs and staff when you sought election as Speaker. We share your view that employers play a vital role in the health and wellbeing of staff and we were very pleased to see in a recent interview with the *Times* that you “believe in expanding the health and wellbeing service” across the parliamentary estate.

As you will be very aware, the House of Commons has come under significant scrutiny as a place of work in recent years. We share the view of the Cross-Party Working Group on an Independent Complaints and Grievance Policy, as cited in the Laura Cox report, that “*Members of Parliament occupy a position of unique privilege and influence in public life as lawmakers*” and that “*as lawmakers and as our elected representatives it ought to be expected that they lead by example and are held to the highest standards of conduct.*”

We very much hope that as the highest authority in the House you will continue leading the work to ensure the health and wellbeing of MPs, their staff and families and the staff of the House. Senior leaders are vital to maintaining a positive culture at work and encouraging good practice. Indeed, effective implementation of positive health and safety practices depend on strong leadership and the full commitment of the senior leaders.

At the British Safety Council, we work with thousands of organisations to help them foster a culture of health, safety and wellbeing and we are proud that the UK remains world-leading in standards and practice. Do please let us know if we can support your efforts around the health and wellbeing of the House of Commons as a workplace.

With every best wish for the general election campaign and for the next session of parliament.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Robinson".

Mike Robinson  
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Waterman".

Lawrence Waterman OBE  
Chairman

