

Hannah Blythyn MS
Chair of the Standards of Conduct Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

12 December 2024

Individual Member Accountability Inquiry

Dear Hannah,

Thank you for your email following Full Fact's evidence session at the Individual Member Accountability Inquiry and the request for further information. We've outlined responses to your questions below, but please don't hesitate to reach out if you require further information.

Full Fact's position on the draft Public Authority (Accountability) Bill, currently making its passage through the UK Parliament, and any parallels this may have with this Committee's inquiry into introducing the offence of deception as a criminal or civil offence.

A draft of the Public Authority (Accountability) Bill, also known as the Hillsborough Law, has not yet been tabled, so we are mindful to not put a position on record without having reviewed the full text of the Bill. However, from what has already been shared and from previous versions of the Bill, we are supportive of initiatives that increase honesty and transparency in order to support inquiries and investigations.

Both the definition of the 'duty of candor' and how deception is defined within any future legislation proposed by this inquiry will need to be carefully considered.

The correction system currently in use in the UK Parliament, and any data you may be able to share in relation to the frequency of issuing correction notices and how often they lead to corrections.

Fact checks alone are not enough to halt the spread of inaccurate information, however what makes Full Fact different from other fact checking organisations is when we see an inaccurate claim being repeated, we get in touch with those responsible to correct the record. Evidence tells us that corrections can be most effective if whoever said the claim corrects it themselves. This helps us to change attitudes and behaviours, encourage a culture of accuracy, and gather evidence about how well the systems meant to stop bad information reaching the public are working.

In our [2024 report](#) we outlined what steps needed to be taken to ensure MPs in Westminster had the same ability to correct the record as Ministers. The recommendations of the Procedure Committee were [implemented in April 2024](#), improving the corrections system to allow MPs to correct the record by making a point of order and writing directly to Hansard.

The full effectiveness of the correction system can't be measured by Full Fact alone. Given it is not possible for us to monitor and fact check all claims made by politicians, it is not accurate to draw

comparisons about the overall behaviour of individual MPs or political parties. However, our work has shown that politicians are willing to correct the record when inaccurate statements are pointed out to them.

We've secured corrections from former Prime Ministers, including [David Cameron](#) and [Rishi Sunak](#), both sides of the House of Commons, national charities, and every major newspaper. All of this is outlined on our website in the 'Your MP' section, which is updated every time we intervene after a fact check. However, some MPs also [refuse to correct](#) the record and Full Fact alone cannot force them to do so.

As we presented in the session, we would support the committee exploring what parliamentary bodies could encourage and enforce correction notices. This work also should also be done in parallel with greater training and guidance from political parties to ensure that MPs are willing to take on responsibility for their statements.

I wish you the best with the rest of the inquiry and we look forward to reading what the committee recommends. Restoring trust in politics is an issue of great importance to us all and we are glad it is being given due consideration through the committee.

Best wishes,



Azzurra Moores
Policy Lead, Full Fact