

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
SELECT COMMITTEE

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
COMMITTEE OFFICE
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3 August 2005

Dear 

I am responding to your request for information on individual cases taken up by the Public Administration Committee, contained in your letter to Kenneth Fox, which you copied to me.

The Committee has not, as far as I am aware, taken up individual cases directly, but it does occasionally follow up cases investigated by the Ombudsman – the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration – whose work is within the Committee's remit. You will find examples in the Fourth Report of the Committee of Session 1999-2000, on the *Report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration for 1998-1999* (HC 106) and the Third Report of Session 2002-03, *Ombudsman Issues* (HC 448). These are extremely high level and those commented on in the later report concentrate on access to information rather than maladministration. Since 1997 the Committee's Reports have been published on the internet and are available at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmpubadm.htm>

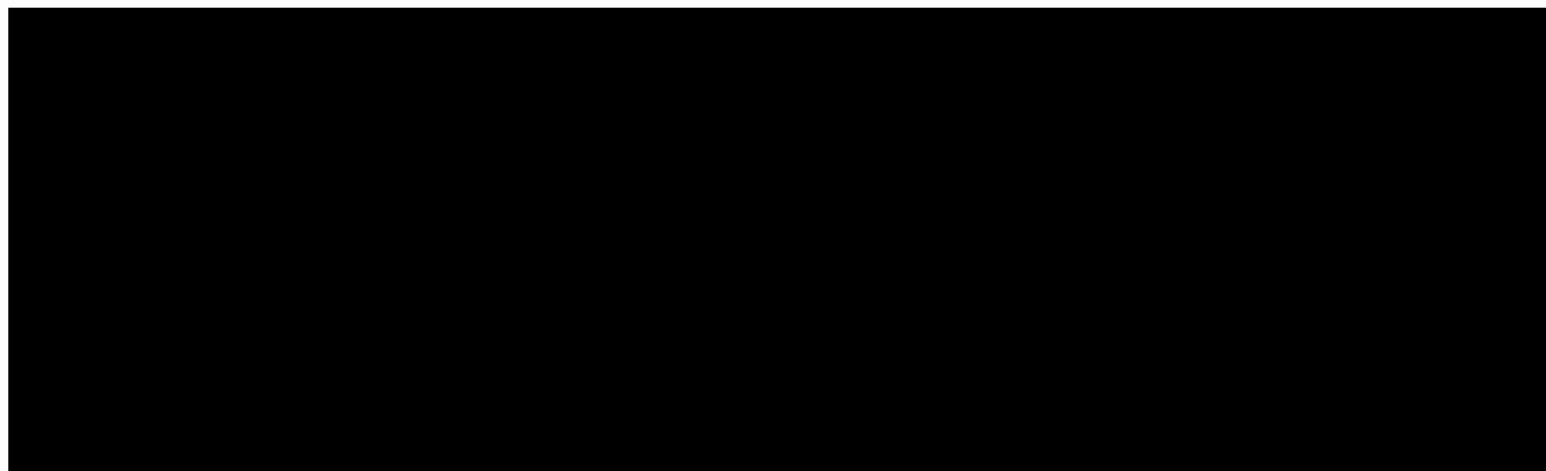
Reports before this were published in hard copy.

Your case differs from these since it has not been investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration who looks at cases of maladministration. However, she is precluded from investigating matters for which there is a legal remedy, or for action taken in respect of appointments or removals, pay, discipline, superannuation or other personnel matters in respect of service under the Crown, which from your first letter appeared to be the grounds for your complaint. Your second letter refers to maladministration. Obviously, I cannot judge whether all or part of your complaint falls outside the exclusions. The complaint needs to be referred to the Parliamentary Commissioner by an MP, usually the complainant's constituency MP.

In your recent email you asked whether the either of the Committees had "ever previously received a request to investigate a similar allegation by an individual"; I can only answer for PASC. Individuals do occasionally contact the Committee with grievances. On occasion this is because the individual concerned lives abroad, and so has no constituency MP; in at least some of these cases the Chairman has forwarded the papers to the Parliamentary Commissioner for her consideration. Requests that the Committee itself investigate grievances have been refused on the grounds that "it is not within the Committee's remit to look at individual cases or grievances".

I am happy to copy this correspondence to Dr Tony Wright, the Chairman of the Committee, so that he can intervene if he thinks it appropriate.

Yours Sincerely,



Eve Samson

Clerk of the Committee

