



Open Letter from Transparency Task Force to:

**Dame Meg Hillier DBE MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee
The Palace of Westminster
London SW1A 0A.**

Friday 7th February 2025, by Email only.

THE UNACCEPTABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS REGARDING THE DAME LINDA DOBBS REVIEW

Dear Dame Meg Hillier DBE MP,

I am writing this Open Letter to you in your capacity as Chair of the Treasury Select Committee, and in my capacity as Founder of [Transparency Task Force](#), a Certified Social Enterprise dedicated to driving greater transparency, truthfulness and trustworthiness into the financial services sector.

[The Dame Linda Dobbs Review](#) was set up in the aftermath of the trial in 2017 of some of those responsible for the massive frauds out of Lloyds/HBOS Bank in Reading. The fraud was close to £1bn, though the prosecution only took on £245m of the fraud.

At the time commitments were made and reassurances were given that persuaded victims to forego their preference for a proper independent inquiry into the scandal.

The Review was meant to investigate the banking frauds emanating out of Reading, and produce an independent report into how it happened, and how it should be prevented in the future, the implications to the victims, and also whether it was occurring elsewhere.

The Review, though it was to be financed by Lloyds, was to be independent of the bank.

It was always intended to be made public, and it was on this basis and with this express understanding that all the victims participated, cooperated and provided personal and confidential information.

The Review is now in its 9th year, yet nothing has been produced. It is a travesty that [it seems there is now an attempt to hide the full Review once it is published](#).

A great many of the banking fraud victims were interviewed, and a number of people were employed to construct the Review.

Adam Wiseman KC, of Red Lion Chambers was appointed by Lloyds Banking Group as Counsel to the Dobbs Review and I believe he is still in position.

Lloyds seem to be attempting to make it an internal Lloyds report with no intention of allowing it to be published other than in a form Lloyds Bank has redacted.

That was never the intention. The Review is now so late that it is unlikely to offer the meaningful support to the many victims of Lloyds/HBOS that it ought to have.

The failure to produce the Report in a reasonable time has let down victims nationally and allowed Lloyds and the many involved Managers who were not prosecuted to continue without any sanction.

This kind of procrastination, obfuscation, deflection, delay and denial is precisely the kind of behaviour that is leading so many to lose trust in our institutions and the workings of the State: Hillsborough, Post Office, Contaminated Blood, LC&F, Woodford; it's a very long list of scandals as you know.

The main questions that need answering are:

1. Why has the Report taken so long to produce?
2. Which individuals and entities have been responsible for this inexcusable delay?
3. Why is Lloyds overseeing a supposedly independent report into their own behaviour?
4. How much has the Report cost so far, and how much has Dame Linda and Mr Adam Wiseman been paid?
5. When will the Report be issued?
6. What will you do to ensure that the Report is published in full, without any redaction, as originally intended.

I could go on, but those are just some of the questions around what an increasing number of people believe to be a manipulated and captured report – designed to protect Lloyds and not its victims.

I assure you this is and will remain a major public interest issue and it is on a matter that I believe your Committee has jurisdiction over.

Furthermore, and very fortunately, [as this this letter shows](#), Lloyds Banking Group have already committed publicly to fulfil any requests the Treasury Committee makes to them; for your convenience the relevant part of the letter is here:

"Lloyds Banking Group remains determined to get to the bottom of what happened in HBOS Reading and we share the Treasury Committee's desire for transparency. We welcome the statement by Nicky Morgan MP, Chair of the TC. We continue to support the FCA investigation and the separate, independent Dame Linda Dobbs review. We will, of course, assist the TC in its consideration of these matters and will fulfil any requests made to us, including provision of Dame Linda's review findings. The Professor Griggs' customer review continues to make good progress and has, to date, made offers to more than 85% of customers within the review."

As this is now your Committee, perhaps you need only request the Report be published in full without delay? Given the ongoing lack of transparency and accountability regarding the Dame Linda Dobbs Review, could you also instigate a Treasury Committee inquiry for open questioning of Dame Linda Dobbs DBE, Adam Wiseman KC, and others of interest?

And finally, as I imagine you and your committee colleagues are aware, several victims of the egregious banking misconduct at the heart of this matter have died waiting for justice, others are very seriously ill, and many others have had their lives shattered by what happened; please treat this request seriously and with the respect the victims deserve.

Will you now act as respectfully requested, please, given the discovery of the letter showing Lloyds Banking Group's agreement to "...assist the TC in its consideration of these matters and will fulfil any requests made to us...?"

Your thoughts, please.

Kind regards,

Andy

Andy Agathangelou FRSA

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