

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 16 MARCH 2011 AT 4.00 pm
SPEAKER'S HOUSE**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Sam Gyimah MP	Bridget Phillipson MP
Rt Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP	Mr Gary Streeter MP
Rt Hon. Grant Shapps MP	

Apologies: Rt Hon. Nick Clegg MP (*ex officio*), Naomi Long MP.

1. Consideration of formal minutes of the meeting on 30 November 2010

The formal minutes of the meeting on 30 November were agreed.

2. Appointment / Re-appointment of Electoral Commissioners and the Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

The Committee considered the matter.

The Committee agreed to recommend that Mr Max Caller should be re-appointed as an ordinary Commissioner of the Electoral Commission, subject to consultation in accordance with s3(2) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 as amended by the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009.

The Committee agreed to recommend that Mr Max Caller should be reappointed to the post of Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

3. National Audit Office reports on the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England: publication of First Report 2011

The Committee agreed its First Report 2011, *Reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General*, enclosing the following reports from the National Audit Office:

- *The Electoral Commission's spending to support the running of elections; and*
- *The LGBCE draft Corporate Plan for 2011-12 to 2015-16.*

4. Consideration of the draft main Estimate 2011-12 and draft Corporate Plan 2011-12 to 2015-16 of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England; and the Electoral Commission

The Committee questioned Max Caller (Chair) and Alan Cogbill (Chief Executive) of the Local Government Boundary Commission. Mr Caller and Mr Cogbill withdrew.

The Committee questioned Jenny Watson (Chair), Peter Wardle (Chief Executive), Carolyn Hughes (Director of Finance & Corporate Services), and Andrew Scallan (Director of Electoral Administration) of the Electoral Commission. Ms Watson, Mr Wardle, Ms Hughes and Mr Scallan withdrew.

The Committee agreed the draft main Estimates 2011-12 and draft Corporate Plans 2011-12 to 2015-16 of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England; and of the Electoral Commission.

5. Any other business

The Committee noted a letter from the Minister for Local Government concerning the number of Commissioners at the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

SCEC FM 02 (2011)

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 30 MARCH 2011 AT 4.00 pm
SPEAKER'S HOUSE**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Sam Gyimah MP	Rt Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP

Apologies: Rt Hon. Nick Clegg MP (*ex officio*), Naomi Long MP, Bridget Phillipson MP, Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, Mr Gary Streeter MP.

1. Consideration of formal minutes of the meeting on 16 March 2011

The formal minutes of the meeting on 16 March were agreed.

2. Appointment / Re-appointment of Electoral Commissioners and the Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

The Committee considered the matter.

The Committee agreed to appoint Dame Denise Platt to chair the independent panel for the recruitment of an ordinary Commissioner of the Electoral Commission.

The Committee agreed to appoint Dr Christine Kennedy OBE, an OCPA-accredited assessor, to the independent panel.

The Committee discussed the recruitment process with Clare Ettinghausen, Deputy Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission.

Ms Ettinghausen withdrew.

The Committee further considered the matter.

[Adjourned at 4.40 pm until a date and time to be set by the Chairman.

SCEC FM 03 (2011)

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 18 JULY 2011 AT 6.00 pm
SPEAKER'S HOUSE**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Sam Gyimah MP	Naomi Long MP
Rt Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP	Mr Gary Streeter MP

Apologies: Mr Graham Allen MP, Rt Hon. Nick Clegg MP (*ex officio*), Bridget Phillipson MP, Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP.

1. Consideration of minutes of the meeting on 30 March 2011

The minutes of the meeting on 30 March were agreed.

2. Appointment / Re-appointment of Electoral Commissioners and the Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

The Committee considered the matter.

(i) Proposed re-appointment of Max Caller to the Electoral Commission and LGBCE.

The Committee noted that Max Caller had been appointed as interim chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, for the period to 31 March 2012.

The Committee agreed its Second Report 2011, *Appointments to the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England*, for publication in September.

(ii) Appointment of an Electoral Commissioner with a special interest in Northern Ireland

The Committee endorsed the recommendation of the independent panel, that the name of Miss Anna Carragher be put forward to the statutory stages of the recruitment process.

(iii) Replacement of Baroness Browning (nominated Commissioner)

The Committee appointed an independent panel to consider the nominations put forward by Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP, as leader of the Conservative Party, for the seat of nominated Commissioner held by Baroness Browning.

The panel members would be:

Dame Denise Platt, in the Chair
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP
Jenny Watson, chair of the Electoral Commission

(iv) *Expected duration of nominated Commissioner appointment*

The Committee agreed that it was minded to appoint a successor to Baroness Browning for an initial term expiring on 30 September 2014.

[Adjourned at 6.11 pm until a date and time to be set by the Chairman.]

SCEC FM 04 (2011)

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 11.00 am
SPEAKER'S HOUSE**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Rt Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP	Naomi Long MP

Apologies: Mr Graham Allen MP, Rt Hon. Nick Clegg MP (*ex officio*), Sam Gyimah MP, Bridget Phillipson MP, Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, Mr Gary Streeter MP.

1. Consideration of minutes of the meeting on 18 July 2011

The minutes of the meeting on 18 July were agreed.

2. Appointment of Electoral Commissioners

The Committee agreed its Third Report 2011, *Appointment of an Electoral Commissioner*.

3. Electoral Commission: proposed expenditure (public awareness campaigns)

The Committee considered this matter.

Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, Carolyn Hughes, Director of Finance, and Alex Robertson, Director of Communications, Electoral Commission, attended the Committee.

The Commission's representatives withdrew.

The Committee noted the requirement for a Supplementary Estimate in 2011/12 and agreed to the Electoral Commission's proposed expenditure.

4. Future programme of the Committee

- (i) Value for Money study of the LGBCE, 2011/12

The Committee approved the National Audit Office's proposal for its next study.

- (ii) Consideration of draft corporate plans

The Committee approved the following requests:

- (a) From the Electoral Commission, for a single-stage review of its draft five-year plan
- (b) From the LGBCE, for a two-stage review of its draft five-year plan

5. Any other business

Correspondence from the LGBCE was noted.

[Adjourned at 11.25 am until a date and time to be set by the Chairman.

SCEC FM 05 (2011)

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 9 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 4.00 pm
COMMITTEE ROOM 21**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Naomi Long MP	Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP	

Apologies: Rt Hon. Nick Clegg MP (*ex officio*), Sam Gyimah MP, Rt Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP, Bridget Phillipson MP [maternity leave].

1. Consideration of minutes of the meeting on 13 September 2011

The minutes of the meeting on 13 September were agreed.

2. Appointment of Electoral Commissioners

The Committee considered the report by Dame Denise Platt, chair of the independent panel appointed to recommend a candidate for the post of nominated Commissioner, in the seat of Baroness Browning.

The Committee endorsed the panel's recommendation that John Horam's name should be put forward to the statutory consultation stage.

Registered party leaders would be consulted upon the proposal, in accordance with the statute.

3. Proposals for amendment of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee agreed to write to the Deputy Prime Minister concerning proposals made by Gary Streeter MP.

The Committee agreed to give further consideration to proposals put forward by Jenny Watson, Chair of the Electoral Commission and Mr David Heath MP.

4. Proposal from the NAO for the 2012 vfm study of the Electoral Commission

The Committee approved the National Audit Office's proposal for its next study.

5. Any other business

The Committee noted correspondence from Peter Wardle, Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission, relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections and to superannuation on payments to counting officers.

[Adjourned to a date and time to be set by the Chair.]

SCEC FM 06 (2011)

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 14 DECEMBER 2011 AT 4.00 pm
COMMITTEE ROOM 21**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Sam Gyimah MP	Naomi Long MP
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP	

Apologies: Rt Hon. Nick Clegg MP (*ex officio*), Bridget Phillipson MP [maternity leave], Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, Mr Gary Streeter MP.

1. Consideration of minutes of the meetings on 9 November 2011

The minutes of the main and sub-committee meetings on 9 November were agreed.

2. Appointment of a nominated Commissioner: Fourth Report 2011

The Committee agreed its Fourth Report 2011, on the *Appointment of a nominated Commissioner*.

3. Procedure for the appointment of a nominated Commissioner from the smaller parties

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Proposals for amendment of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

The Committee considered this matter.

Jenny Watson, Chair, and Peter Wardle, Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission attended the Committee.

Following a discussion, the Commission's representatives withdrew.

The Committee considered the matter further.

5. Future business of the Committee

The Speaker confirmed receipt of a draft supplementary estimate from the Electoral Commission, on 8 December.

The draft Supplementary Estimate to be considered further following receipt of any opinion from HM Treasury.

6. Any other business

The Speaker noted the receipt from the National Audit Office and the Electoral Commission of information requested by the Committee concerning the resource cost of the NAO's annual value for money study of the Electoral Commission.

[Adjourned to a date and time to be set by the Chair.]