



# Election of Select Committee Chairs

This note describes the practical arrangements for the election of select committee chairs and the Chair of the Backbench Business Committee by secret ballot. This procedure is set out in detail in Standing Order Nos. 122B and 122D.

## Allocation to parties of posts of committee chair

1. On Tuesday 4 July, the House agreed a motion in the name of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Scottish National Party Westminster Group Leader and the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, allocating the chairs of each of the select committees covered by Standing Order No.122B to a specific party

2. The allocation of chairs agreed by the House is as follows:

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	Labour
Communities and Local Government	Labour
Culture, Media and Sport	Conservative
Defence	Conservative
Education	Conservative
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Conservative
Foreign Affairs	Conservative
Health	Conservative
Home Affairs	Labour
International Development	Labour
International Trade	Scottish National Party
Justice	Conservative
Northern Ireland	Conservative
Science and Technology	Liberal Democrat
Scottish Affairs	Scottish National Party
Transport	Labour
Treasury	Conservative
Welsh Affairs	Conservative
Women and Equalities	Conservative
Work and Pensions	Labour
Environmental Audit	Labour
Exiting the European Union	Labour
Petitions	Labour
Procedure	Conservative
Public Accounts	Labour
Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs	Conservative
Standards	Labour

3. According to Standing Order No. 122D, no Member may be a candidate for the position of Chair of the Backbench Business Committee if his or her party is represented in Her Majesty's Government.

## Nominations

4. The ballot will take place on Wednesday 12 July. Nominations will close at 3pm on Friday 7 July. Nominations are to be submitted to the Table Office or the Procedural Hub in Portcullis House.

5. No Member may be a candidate for more than one chair elected under Standing Order No. 122B.

6. No Member may be a candidate for the chair of a select committee which has not been allocated to his/her party under the terms of the allocation motion, or for which he/she is ineligible under Standing Order No. 122A (Term limits for chairs of select committees).

7. Nomination forms are available from the Table Office, Vote Office and the Procedural Hub but this form need not be used, provided that in all respects nominations meet the provisions of the Standing Order. To be valid, nominations must contain a signed statement made by the candidate declaring willingness to stand, and must be accompanied by the signatures of 15 Members elected to the House as members of the same party as the candidate (or 10% of the Members elected to the House of that party, whichever is the lower). In the event that more than 15 signatures are collected from the same party as the candidate, only the first 15 valid signatures are printed.

8. Nominations may be accompanied by the signatures of up to five Members elected to the House as members of any party other than to which the chair is allocated or of no party. Similarly, only five such signatures are printed.

9. In the case of the Backbench Business Committee, candidates require signatures of between 20 and

25 Members, of whom no fewer than 10 shall be members of a party represented in Her Majesty's Government and no fewer than 10 shall be members of another party or no party.

10. No Member may sign the statement of more than one candidate for the chair of the same select committee—if any Member does so, that Member's signature will be invalidated for all nominations for that position. (Hence candidates may choose to obtain and submit more than the mandatory number of supporting signatures, so that the nomination remains valid if a nominator is declared invalid.)
11. Candidates should declare any relevant interests with their nomination. This may include interests which are not required for the Register of Members' Financial Interests, for example the interests of family members or interests falling below the financial threshold, if the interests are relevant, or could be relevant, to the Committee's remit. Candidates are advised to familiarise themselves with paragraphs 1 to 6 of Chapter 2 of the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members, which explain which interests might need to be declared; and with Chapter 3 of the Guide, particularly paragraphs 8 to 14, which explain how the lobbying rule could restrict you in committee proceedings if you have financial interests. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests at [commonsregistrar@parliament.uk](mailto:commonsregistrar@parliament.uk) or x3277.
12. Candidates have the option of providing a 500-word supporting statement.
13. Valid nominations received each day are printed in the next day's House's business papers. They will also be published on the Parliament website, along with the candidate's supporting signatures, any declared interests and any supporting statement.
14. As soon as possible after the close of nominations, the list of candidates and their sponsors will be placed in the Vote Office in Members' Lobby, and will be made available on the website (only printing the first 15 or 5 valid signatories for each candidate). A booklet will also be published containing a photograph of each candidate, any declared interests and any supporting statement. If there is only one candidate for a position, he or she has been elected unopposed.

## Ballot

15. The ballot will be held between 10am and 4pm in Committee Room 8. Members voting have their names recorded at temporary division desks before being issued with ballot papers for each of the contested elections.

16. Any Member who is on the Parliamentary Estate but is incapacitated from voting in the committee room may ask for a Clerk to obtain a ballot paper on their behalf, bring it to the Member, and cast it in the ballot box. Members who need to use this service should make such a request by 9am on the day of the ballot by email to Marek Kubala, Clerk of Elections, Public Bill Office ([kubalam@parliament.uk](mailto:kubalam@parliament.uk)). As is the case with all other votes in the House, proxy voting is not possible.

17. There will be a separate ballot paper for each position, as part of a booklet of papers. The ballot paper will give the names of candidates in alphabetical order. Members should complete the ballot paper at one of the stations erected in the room, and then deposit it in one of the ballot boxes at the exit. Members should vote by ranking as many candidates as they wish in order of preference, marking 1 by the name of their first preference, 2 by the name of their second preference, and so on. Members can indicate as few or as many preferences as they wish.
18. At 4pm the ballot will be closed and the entrance to the room will be locked. All Members in the room when the doors are locked will be allowed to vote.

## Count

19. The ballots will be counted under the Alternative Vote system. For each chair, any candidate who receives more than half the first preferences shall be elected. If no candidate is so elected, the candidate with the lowest number of first preference votes is eliminated and their votes distributed among the remaining candidates according to the preferences on them. If no candidate has more than half the votes, the process of elimination and distribution is repeated, until one candidate has more than half the votes.
20. As soon as practicable after the closing of the ballot, the result will be announced by the Speaker and published.
21. The Member elected formally takes up their position as chair of the committee when the remaining members of the committee have been appointed by the House.
22. Chairs are elected to serve until the end of the Parliament.

## Contact

For further information please contact Marek Kubala, Clerk of Elections, Public Bill Office: x4921, [kubalam@parliament.uk](mailto:kubalam@parliament.uk)  
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