



House of Commons  
Procedure Committee

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# **Minutes of Proceedings**

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**Session 2008–09**



## Procedure Committee

The Procedure Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to consider the practice and procedure of the House in the conduct of public business, and to make recommendations.

### Membership during the Session

Rt Hon Greg Knight MP (*Conservative, Yorkshire East*) (Chairman, from 9.11.05)  
 Ms Celia Barlow MP (*Labour, Hove*)  
 Mr Christopher Chope MP (*Conservative, Christchurch*)  
 Ms Katy Clark MP (*Labour, North Ayrshire and Arran*)  
 Mr Mark Field MP (*Conservative, Cities of London and Westminster*)  
 Mr Roger Gale MP (*Conservative, North Thanet*)  
 Andrew Gwynne MP (*Labour, Denton and Reddish*)  
 John Hemming MP (*Liberal Democrat, Birmingham, Yardley*)  
 Mr Eric Illsley MP (*Labour, Barnsley Central*)  
 Mrs Siân C. James MP (*Labour, Swansea East*)  
 Mrs Linda Riordan MP (*Labour, Halifax*)  
 Sir Robert Smith MP (*Liberal Democrat, West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine*)  
 Sir Peter Soulsby MP (*Labour, Leicester South*)

The following Members were also members of the Committee during the Parliament:

Mr David Anderson MP (*Labour, Blaydon*)  
 Mr Jim Cunningham MP (*Labour, Coventry South*)  
 Annette Brooke MP (*Liberal Democrat, Mid Dorset and Poole North*)  
 Mr David Gauke MP (*Conservative, South West Hertfordshire*)  
 Rosemary McKenna MP (*Labour, Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East*)  
 Sir Nicholas Winterton MP (*Conservative, Macclesfield*) (Chairman till 9.11.05)  
 Mr Rob Wilson MP (*Conservative, Reading East*)

### Powers

The powers of the Committee are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 147. These are available on the Internet via [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk).

### Publication

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/proccom>.

### Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Dr Lynn Gardner and Miss Sara Howe (Clerks) and Rowena Macdonald (Committee Assistant).

### Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Procedure Committee, Journal Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA . The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3318; the Committee's email address is [proccom@parliament.uk](mailto:proccom@parliament.uk)

# Proceedings of the Committee

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**Wednesday 10 December 2008**

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight , in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope  
Mr Roger Gale

Mr Mark Field  
Mr John Hemming

**1. e-Petitions**

The Committee considered this matter.

**2. Third Reading Debates**

The Committee considered this matter.

**3. Written Parliamentary Questions**

The Committee considered this matter.

**4. Scrutiny of Ministers in the Other House**

The Committee considered this matter.

**5. Speech Limits in Committee of the Whole House**

The Committee considered this matter.

**6. Timescale for laying papers from third parties**

The Committee considered this matter.

**7. Scrutiny of European Business**

The Committee considered this matter.

**8. Paragraph 9.3 of the Ministerial Code**

The Committee considered this matter.

**9. Quorum of the House**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 January at 2.30 pm.]

## Wednesday 21 January 2009

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight , in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope  
Mr Roger Gale

Mr Mark Field  
Mr John Hemming  
Sir Robert Smith

### 1. e-Petitions

The Committee considered this matter.

### 2. Written Parliamentary Questions

The Committee considered this matter.

### 3. Timetabling of Business

The Committee considered this matter.

### 4. Paragraph 9.3 of the Ministerial Code

The Committee considered this matter.

### 5. Speech Limits in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered this matter.

### 6. Explanatory Statements to amendments in Public Bill Committees

The Committee considered this matter.

### 7. Divisions

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 February at 2.30 pm.]

## Wednesday 4 February 2009

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight , in the Chair

Mr Roger Gale  
Mr Mark Field  
Mr John Hemming

Mrs Siân C. James  
Sir Robert Smith  
Sir Peter Soulsby

### 1. Written Parliamentary Questions

The Committee considered this matter.

**2. Explanatory Statements to amendments in Public Bill Committees**

The Committee considered this matter.

**3. Divisions**

The Committee considered this matter.

**4. Procedure on complaints of breach of privilege**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 February at 2.30 pm.]

**Wednesday 25 February 2009**

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope  
Mr Roger Gale

Sir Robert Smith  
Sir Peter Soulsby

**1. Written Parliamentary Questions**

The Committee considered this matter.

**2. e-Petitions**

The Committee considered this matter.

**3. Interleaving of Bills and Explanatory Notes**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 March at 2.30 pm.]

**Wednesday 11 March 2009**

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight, in the Chair

Mrs Katy Clark  
Mr Roger Gale  
Mr John Hemming

Mrs Siân C. James  
Sir Robert Smith  
Sir Peter Soulsby

### **1. Tabling of Amendments by Select Committees**

The Committee considered this matter.

### **2. Interleaving of Bills and Explanatory Notes**

The Committee considered this matter.

### **3. Written Parliamentary Questions**

The Committee considered this matter.

### **4. Oral evidence: Written Parliamentary Questions**

Ms Jacy Sharpe, Principal Clerk, Table Office, Mr Nick Walker, Clerk, Table Office, Mrs Karen Saunders, Higher Executive Officer, Table Office and Lynn Lewis, Editorial Supervisor of the Vote, House of Commons; Chris Bryant MP, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 March at 4.00 pm.]

## **Wednesday 25 March 2009**

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope  
Mr Mark Field  
Mr Roger Gale

Mrs Siân C. James  
Sir Robert Smith  
Sir Peter Soulsby

### **1. Interleaving of Bills and Explanatory Notes**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Interleaving of Bills and Explanatory Notes), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 read and agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report .

### **2. Written Ministerial Statements**

The Committee considered this matter.

### **3. The Treasury's Alignment (Clear Line of Sight) project**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 1 April at 4.00 pm.

### **Wednesday 1 April 2009**

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight, in the Chair

Mr Mark Field  
Mr Roger Gale  
Mr John Hemming

Mrs Siân C. James  
Sir Robert Smith  
Sir Peter Soulsby

#### **1. Tabling of Amendments by Select Committees**

The Committee considered this matter.

#### **2. Index to amendment paper**

The Committee considered this matter.

#### **3. e-Petitions: follow up**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 29 April at 4.00 pm.

### **Wednesday 29 April 2009**

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope  
Mr Mark Field  
Mr Roger Gale

John Hemming  
Sir Robert Smith  
Sir Peter Soulsby

#### **1. Powers of Chairmen**

The Committee considered this matter.

#### **2. e-Petitions: follow up**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (e-Petitions: Call for Government action), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 11 read and agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Second Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report.

### **3. Written parliamentary questions**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 13 May at 2.00 pm.]

## **Wednesday 13 May 2009**

Members present:

Mr Greg Knight, in the Chair

Mr Roger Gale  
John Hemming  
Mrs Siân C. James

Sir Robert Smith  
Sir Peter Soulsby

### **1. Timetabling of business**

The Committee agreed to conduct an inquiry into the timetabling of business.

### **2. Tabling of amendments by select committees.**

The Committee considered this matter.

### **3. Indexing of amendments to bills**

The Committee considered this matter.

### **4. Treasury Alignment project**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 June at 2.00 pm.]