



House of Commons
Regulatory Reform Committee

Formal Minutes

Session 2007–08

Proceedings of the Committee

Tuesday 27 November 2007

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks
Mr Quentin Davies
John Hemming

Dr Doug Naysmith
Phil Wilson

1. Declaration of interests

Mr Quentin Davies and Phil Wilson declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (See Appendix).

2. Draft Legislative Reform (Local Authority Consent Requirements) (England and Wales) Order 2007

Draft Report, Draft Legislative Reform (Local Authority Consent Requirements) (England and Wales) Order 2007, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

[The draft Report was agreed to. The Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report from the Committee, HC 135]

Resolved, That leave be given to the Clerk to produce a draft report on the second stage of the Legislative Reform Order process with regard to the Local Authority Consent Requirements (England and Wales) Order 2007 in advance of a Committee meeting.

3. Survey on business attitudes to regulations

Resolved, That the National Audit Office be asked to include a question about burdensome regulations in its forthcoming Business Survey.

4. NAO involvement

Resolved, That the Committee appoint the National Audit Office as advisers for its inquiries.

5. One-off evidence session with BRE

Resolved, That officials from the Better Regulation Executive be invited to attend a one-off oral evidence session.

6. Healthcare Commission

Resolved, That the Chief Executive of the Healthcare Commission be invited to attend an informal discussion.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 29 January at 9.30 am.

Appendix - Declaration of Members' Interests

DAVIES, Quentin (Grantham and Stamford)

1. Remunerated directorships

Vinci SA; construction, public works, concessions.

Vinci UK PLC (subsidiary of Vinci SA); construction, public works, concessions.

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc.

Parliamentary Consultant to the Chartered Institute of Taxation. (*£5,001-£10,000*)

6. Overseas visits

23-26 April 2007, to Qatar, to attend the Doha International Forum, as a guest of the organisers, who met all my costs. (*Registered 2 May 2007*)

8. Land and Property

Flat in France from which rental income is received.

10. Miscellaneous and unremunerated interests

Member of the Board of the Association of Lloyd's Names (unremunerated).

Director, Sumac Underwriting Ltd (unremunerated).

WILSON, Phil (Sedgefield)

Nil.

Tuesday 29 January 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks
Lorely Burt
John Hemming

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith
Phil Wilson

1. Declaration of interests

Judy Mallaber declared her interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (See Appendix).

Gordon Banks declared as a relevant interest membership of the Federation of Small Businesses.

2. Informal LRO procedure

Resolved, That when appropriate in advance of their being laid, staff may advise departments of any necessary minor drafting amendments to legislative reform orders prior to Committee consideration.

3. Formal LRO procedure

Resolved, That when necessary staff may put written questions to government departments regarding legislative reform orders in advance of Committee consideration.

4. Presentation at the meeting on Tuesday 5 February

Resolved, That at the meeting on 5 February the NAO be invited to give a short presentation on regulatory reform in advance of the submission of the requested briefing paper.

5. Oral evidence from officials from the Better Regulation Executive

William Sargent, Executive Chair, and Jitinder Kohli, Chief Executive, Better Regulation Executive, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5 February at 9.30 am.

Appendix - Declaration of Members' Interests

MALLABER, Judy (Amber Valley)

Declared a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo, financed by Christian Aid, where she acted as an election monitor. She also declared as relevant her role as Co-Convenor of the Unison Group of MPs.

Tuesday 5 February 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks
Lorely Burt

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith

1. Declaration of interests

Gordon Banks declared as a relevant interest his role as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

2. Any other business

Resolved, That, with reference to the letter of 23 January from the Minister for the Cabinet Office to the Chair of the Liaison Committee on pre-appointment hearings by select committees, the Committee suggests that any future Executive Chair of the Better Regulation Executive might be added to the list appended to that letter.

3. Topic of inquiry

Resolved, That the Committee undertakes an inquiry into *Getting Results. The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda.*

Resolved, That the Chairman be authorised to agree the terms of reference and programme of evidence for the inquiry which would be circulated to members for comment.

4. Overseas visit in connection with the inquiry

Resolved, That the Committee visits the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee.

Resolved, That one criterion for participation in the proposed visit would be a good attendance record at meetings.

5. Presentation by Edward Humpherson, Assistant Auditor General, National Audit Office

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 March at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 4 March 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks
Lorely Burt

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith

1. Draft Legislative Reform (Health and Safety Executive) Order 2008

Draft Report, Draft Legislative Reform (Health and Safety Executive) Order 2008, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

[The draft Report was agreed to. The Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report from the Committee, HC 398]

2. Resolved, That the NAO have leave to make public its memorandum to the Committee on regulatory reform.

3. Presentation on healthcare regulation by Anna Walker, Chief Executive, Healthcare Commission

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 April at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 1 April 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks
Lorely Burt
John Hemming

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith

1. Visit to Better Regulation Executive

Resolved, That an invitation from William Sargent, Chair, Better Regulation Executive, to visit the BRE be accepted.

2. Declaration of interests

Gordon Banks and John Hemming declared as a relevant interest membership of the Federation of Small Businesses.

3. Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda—oral evidence

Clive Davenport, Trade and Industry Chairman, Federation of Small Businesses, Alexander Ehmann, Head of Parliamentary and Regulatory Affairs, Institute of Directors, Matthew Fell, Head of Corporate Affairs, Confederation of British Industry, and Sally Lowe, Director of Policy, British Chambers of Commerce, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 29 April at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 29 April 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks
John Hemming

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith

1. Publication of evidence by witnesses

Resolved, That witnesses for the inquiry into *Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda* be given leave to publish their written evidence if required.

2. Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda—oral evidence

Sarah Veale, Head, Equality and Employment Rights Department, Trades Union Congress, Philip Cullum, Acting Chief Executive, and Steve Brooker, Senior Policy Advocate, National Consumer Council, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 May at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 13 May 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks

Lorely Burt

Mr Quentin Davies

John Hemming

Judy Mallaber

Dr Doug Naysmith

1. Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda—oral evidence

Richard Gregg, Head of Regulation, Division and Programme Director of the Better Regulation Programme, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Trevor Huddleston, Strategy Director, Department for Work and Pensions, Geoffrey Podger, Chief Executive, Health and Safety Executive, and Giles Wilmore, Director of System Regulation, Health and Adult Social Care, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 20 May at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 20 May 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks

John Hemming

Mr Stewart Jackson

Judy Mallaber

Dr Doug Naysmith

Phil Wilson

1. Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda—oral evidence

Councillor Keith Evans, Local Government Association, Wendy Martin, Senior Public Affairs Officer (LACORS), Councillor Andy Sutton, Local Government Association, of the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS); Barbara Young, Chief Executive, and Ed Mitchell, Head of Regulatory Development, Environment Agency, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 June at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 3 to Friday 6 June 2008

Andrew Miller, Chairman, Lorely Burt, Mr Quentin Davies, Judy Mallaber and Dr Doug Naysmith visited Copenhagen, Stockholm and The Hague, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 5 February 2008.

Tuesday 24 June 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks
Mr Quentin Davies
Mr Mark Prisk
John Hemming

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith
Phil Wilson

1. Declaration of interests

Mr Mark Prisk declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992. In addition he declared as relevant his wife's role as a Director of the Financial Services Agency (See Appendix).

2. Heads of Report for the inquiry into: Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda

Resolved, that the Heads of Report be agreed to.

3. Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda—oral evidence

Baroness Shriti Vadera, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, a Member of the House of Lords, Sir William Sargent, Executive Chair, and Jitinder Kohli, Chief Executive, Better Regulation Executive, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 July at 9.30 am.]

Appendix - Declaration of Members' Interests

PRISK, Mark (Hertford and Stortford)

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc

Non-practising chartered surveyor

6. Overseas visits

16-23 September 2006, to Hong Kong with the All-Party Parliamentary China Group, at the invitation and expense of the Hong Kong SAR Government. (Registered 26 September 2006)

Declared. as relevant his wife's role as a Director of the Financial Services Agency

Tuesday 8 July 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Gordon Banks
John Hemming

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith

1. Draft Legislative Reform (Consumer Credit) Order 2008

Draft Report, Draft Legislative Reform (Consumer Credit) Order 2008, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

[The draft Report was agreed to. The Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report from the Committee, HC 939]

2. Draft Legislative Reform (Local Authority Consent Requirements) (England and Wales) Order 2008

Draft Report, Draft Legislative Reform (Local Authority Consent Requirements) (England and Wales) Order 2008, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

[The draft Report was agreed to. The Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report from the Committee, HC 940]

3. Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the Impact of the Regulatory Reform Agenda

Draft Report, Getting Results: The Better Regulation Executive and the Impact of the Regulatory Reform Agenda, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

[The draft Report was agreed to. The Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report from the Committee, HC 474-I]

[Adjourned till Tuesday 14 October at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 14 October 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Lorely Burt
John Hemming

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith

1. Draft Legislative Reform (Lloyd's) Order 2008

Draft Report, Draft Legislative Reform (Lloyd's) Order 2008, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

[The draft Report was agreed to. The Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report from the Committee, HC 1090]

2. Any other business

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 November at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 11 November 2008

Members present:

Andrew Miller (in the Chair)

Lorely Burt
John Hemming

Judy Mallaber
Dr Doug Naysmith

1. Draft Legislative Reform (Verification of Weighing and Measuring Equipment) Order 2008

Draft Report, Draft Legislative Reform (Verification of Weighing and Measuring Equipment) Order 2008, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

[The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Seventh Report from the Committee, Session 2007-08, HC 1185, p16]

2. Getting Results: the Better Regulation Executive and the Impact of the Regulatory Reform Agenda: The Government response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007-08

Draft Special Report (*Getting Results: the Better Regulation Executive and the Impact of the Regulatory Reform Agenda: The Government response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Fifth Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

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

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

[The Report is the First Special Report from the Committee, Session 2007-08, HC 1186]

3. Presentation by the National Audit Office on current trends in regulatory reform

4. Any other business

[Adjourned to a date and time to be fixed by the Chairman.]