Formal Minutes

Wednesday 3 December 2008

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser  Stephen Pound
Kate Hoey  David Simpson

1. Bloody Sunday

Ordered, That a letter received from Lord Saville, dated 24 November, relating to the Bloody Sunday inquiry report be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Future work programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee request written evidence from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on ID cards for travel and missing persons in Northern Ireland.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 December at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 10 December 2008

Members present:

Christopher Fraser  Mr Denis Murphy
Mr Stephen Hepburn  David Simpson
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Mr Stephen Hepburn was called to the Chair for the meeting.

Cross-border co-operation

Mr Pat Maguire, Director 1, Operations Directorate, and Mr Phillip O’Neill, Head of Learning and Development, Northern Ireland Prison Service, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 17 December at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 17 December 2008
Members present:

Mr David Anderson  Mr Denis Murphy
Mr John Grogan  Stephen Pound
Kate Hoey  David Simpson

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Stephen Pound was called to the Chair for the meeting

1. Work of the Committee in Session 2007-08

Draft Report (Work of the Committee in Session 2007-08), 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 of the Committee, HC 74.

2. Cross-border co-operation

Mr William Hughes QPM, Director General, Mr David Armond, Deputy Director, Proceeds of Crime, and Mr Bob Lauder, Regional Deputy Director, Enforcement, Scotland and Northern Ireland, Serious Organised Crime Agency, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 14 January 2009 at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 14 January 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr David Anderson  Kate Hoey
Mr John Grogan  Mr Denis Murphy
Mr Stephen Hepburn  Stephen Pound

1. Consultative Group on the Past

Resolved, that the Committee inquire into the final report of the Consultative Group on the Past.

Resolved, That the Chairman have leave to visit Belfast, in a representative capacity, in January 2009 for the purpose of the Committee’s inquiry into the Consultative Group on the Past.

2. Future work programme

The Committee considered this matter.
3. Cross-border cooperation

Mr Ronnie Spence, Chairman, Mr Brian McCaughey, Director, and Mr Paul Doran, Probation Board for Northern Ireland; and Mr Colin Reid, Avery Bowser, and Kathleen Spencer Chapman; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Northern Ireland gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 January at 2.00 p.m.

Wednesday 21 January 2009

Members present:
Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Mr David Anderson Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Christopher Fraser Mr Denis Murphy
Mr John Grogan Stephen Pound
Mr Stephen Hepburn David Simpson
Kate Hoey

1. Decommissioning legislation
The Committee considered this matter

2. Future work programme
The Committee considered this matter

3. UTV Television and digital broadcasting
The Committee considered this matter

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 February at 2.30 p.m.

Monday 26 – Tuesday 27 January

The Chairman, Dr Alasdair McDonnell, Mr Denis Murphy and Stephen Pound visited Dublin, Republic of Ireland, in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into Cross-border co-operation between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 21 May 2008.

Wednesday 4 February 2009

Members present:
1. Consultative Group on the Past

Resolved, That Mr David Watkins be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters relating to the Consultative Group on the Past.

2. Future work programme

Resolved, That the Committee visit Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in March 2009 in connection with its inquiry into Cross-border co-operation between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

3. Cross-border co-operation

Sir Alasdair Fraser, Director of the Public Prosecution Service of Northern Ireland; and Al Hutchinson, Ombudsman, and Jim Coulter, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 February at 2.30 p.m.]

Wednesday 11 February 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser                             Mr Denis Murphy
Mr John Grogan                                 Stephen Pound
Mr Stephen Hepburn                             Mrs Iris Robinson
Lady Hermon                                    David Simpson
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

1. Autumn Performance Report 2008

Resolved, That the Committee request a memorandum on the Autumn Performance Report 2008 from the Northern Ireland Office.
2. Cross-border co-operation

Paul Goggins, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 February at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25 February 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser  Mr Denis Murphy
Mr Stephen Hepburn  Stephen Pound
Lady Hermon  Mrs Iris Robinson
Kate Hoey  David Simpson
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

1. Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the process towards a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

2. Omagh: a decade after the bomb

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into events surrounding the Omagh bombing of August 1998.

3. The Consultative Group on the Past

Lord Eames and Mr Denis Bradley, former co-Chairs of the Consultative Group on the Past, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 March at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 11 March 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper  Kate Hoey
Christopher Fraser  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Stephen Hepburn  Mr Denis Murphy
Lady Hermon  Stephen Pound
1. Omagh: a decade after the bomb

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Cross-border co-operation

The Committee considered this matter.

3. International conflict resolution

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into international conflict resolutions and the lessons to be learnt from the Northern Ireland peace process.

4. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Consultative Group on the Past

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Monday 16 March at 11.15 a.m.

Monday 16 –Wednesday 18 March

The Chairman, Mr John Grogan, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Lady Hermon, Dr Alasdair McDonnell, Mr Denis Murphy, Stephen Pound, and David Simpson visited Northern Ireland in connection with the Committee’s inquiries into a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and Omagh: a decade after the bomb, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 4 February 2009.

The Chairman, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Mr Denis Murphy and Stephen Pound visited County Louth, Republic of Ireland, in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into Cross-border co-operation between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 4 February 2009.

Monday 16 March 2009

MORNING SITTING

The Committee met at the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Members present:
Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr John Grogan
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

Mr Denis Murphy
Stephen Pound
David Simpson

Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Thomas Duncan, Commissioner, Ann Hope, Commissioner, Colin Harvey, Commissioner, and Virginia McVea, Head of Legal Services, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; and Fiona McCausland, Chairperson, Patrick Corrigan, Sara Boyce and Pam Tilson, members, Northern Ireland Human Rights Consortium, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16 March at 3.15 p.m.

Monday 16 March 2009

AFTERNOON SITTING

The Committee met at the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr John Grogan Mr Denis Murphy
Mr Stephen Hepburn Stephen Pound
Lady Hermon David Simpson
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

Omagh: a decade after the bomb

Michael Gallagher, Chairman, and Godfrey Wilson, member, Omagh Support and Self-Help Group, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 March at 2.00 p.m.

Wednesday 25 March 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr John Grogan Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Stephen Hepburn Mr Denis Murphy
1. Television broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Resolved, that the Committee inquire into the future of television broadcasting in Northern Ireland.

2. Omagh: a decade after the bomb

John Ware, Reporter, and Leo Telling, Producer, BBC Panorama, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 1 April at 2.30 p.m.]

Wednesday 1 April 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser          Mr Denis Murphy
Mr Stephen Hepburn          Stephen Pound
Lady Hermon                 David Simpson
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

1. Television broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Resolved, That the Committee visit Northern Ireland in connection with its inquiry into Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland.

2. Political developments in Northern Ireland

Rt Hon. Shaun Woodward MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Nick Perry, Director General, Criminal Justice and Policing, and Hilary Jackson, Director General, Political, Northern Ireland Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 22 April at 3.30 p.m.]

Wednesday 22 April 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser          Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr John Grogan              Mr Denis Murphy

1. Omagh: a decade after the bomb

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Consultative Group on the Past

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Consultative Group on the Past be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- FAIR
- Mr A. Wallace
- County Grand Lodge of Belfast
- Sir Hugh Orde, Chief Constable, Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Dr David Stevens, Corrymeela Community
- NI Community Relations Council
- Dr Lynch, West Tyrone Voice victims of terrorism group
- James H Allister QC, MEP for NI, on behalf of Traditional Unionist Voice
- John McCord, Commission for Victims and Survivors
- TMR Health Professionals
- NI Retired Police Officers Association
- Healing Through Remembering
- Church of Ireland
- Northern Area Trauma Advisory Panel

3. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Dr Austen Morgan
- Professor Brice Dickson

4. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Post-legislative scrutiny

The Committee considered this matter.
Wednesday 29 April 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Christopher Fraser           Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Lady Hermon                  Mr Denis Murphy
Kate Hoey                    Stephen Pound

1. Omagh: a decade after the bomb
The Committee considered this matter.

2. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland
The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That written evidence submitted by South Tyrone Empowerment Programme relating to a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. NIO Autumn Performance Report

Ordered, That written evidence submitted by the Northern Ireland Office in relation to the NIO Autumn Performance Report be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Consultative Group on the Past
The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That written evidence submitted by the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation relating to the Consultative Group on the Past be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Patricia MacBride and Brendan McAllister, Commissioners, Commission for Victims and Survivors; and Chris Albiston and Raymond White, Northern Ireland Retired Police Officers Association, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 6 May at 2.30 p.m.]
Wednesday 6 May 2009

Members present:
Lady Hermon
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
David Simpson

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Stephen Pound was called to the Chair for the meeting

1. Turkish Parliament

The Committee met privately with a delegation from the Turkish Parliament

[Adjourned till Wednesday 13 May at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13 May 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Rosie Cooper
Christopher Fraser
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Kate Hoey
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Denis Murphy
Stephen Pound
David Simpson

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Star Neighbourhood Centre
- British Irish Rights Watch
- Human Rights Consortium
- Paul Watterson
- Alliance for Choice
- Evangelical Alliance NI
- NIPSA
- Women’s Resource and Development Agency
- Rural Community Network
3. Omagh: a decade after the bomb

Rt Hon. Sir Peter Gibson, Intelligence Services Commissioner, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 20 May at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 20 May 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser                      Lady Hermon
Mr John Grogan                          Kate Hoey
Mr Stephen Hepburn                     Dr Alasdair McDonnell

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- UKTACH Trust
- An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta Teo
- Ruairi O Bleine
- Foras na Gaeilge
- Dermot Lavery, DoubleBand Films
- Northern Ireland Screen Commission
- Georoid de Gras
- Pact
Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Rosie Cooper
Christopher Fraser
Mr Stephen Hepburn
Lady Hermon
Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Denis Murphy
Stephen Pound

1. Belfast visit

Resolved, That the Committee visit to Belfast in June 2009 be postponed.

2. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Liam Kennedy, Professor, University of Belfast
- Assistant Chief Constable, Criminal Justice PSNI

3. Omagh: a decade after the bomb

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Omagh: a decade after the bomb be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Omagh Support and Self Help Group
4. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 June at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 10 June 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper
Christopher Fraser
Lady Hermon
Kate Hoey
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

Mr Denis Murphy
Stephen Pound
Mrs Iris Robinson
David Simpson

Cross-border co-operation between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Draft Report (Cross-border co-operation between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland), 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 of the Committee, HC 78.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 17 June at 3.00 p.m.

Wednesday 17 June 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper
Christopher Fraser
Kate Hoey
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

Stephen Pound
Mrs Iris Robinson
David Simpson
1. Organised Crime in Northern Ireland

Resolved, That the Committee request written evidence from the National Audit Office and the Northern Ireland Audit Office on Organised Crime in Northern Ireland.

2. Northern Ireland Office Departmental Annual Report

Resolved, That the Committee request written evidence from the Northern Ireland Office on its Annual Report 2009.

3. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Ordered, That a memorandum from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission relating to a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24 June at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 24 June 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Christopher Fraser       Kate Hoey
Mr Stephen Hepburn       Mr Denis Murphy
Lady Hermon              Stephen Pound

Consultative Group on the Past

Rt Hon. Shaun Woodward MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 1 July at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 1 July 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Rosie Cooper             Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Christopher Fraser       Mr Denis Murphy
1. Consultative Group on the Past

Ordered, That written evidence received from the Northern Ireland Policing Board relating to the Consultative Group on the Past be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland

Lady Trimble, Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 8 July at 2 p.m.

Wednesday 8 July 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Christopher Fraser  Dr Alasdair McDonnell
Mr Stephen Hepburn  Mr Denis Murphy
Lady Hermon  Mrs Iris Robinson
Kate Hoey  David Simpson

1. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Ordered, That written evidence received from Northern Ireland Screen relating to Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. The Omagh Bombing: Access to Intelligence

Draft Special Report (The Omagh Bombing: Access to Intelligence), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Special Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 12 read and agreed to.

Annex agreed to.

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.
Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

3. Omagh: a decade after the bomb

Jason McCue, partner, H20 Law, and Dame Nuala O’Loan, former Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 15 July at 2.00 p.m.

Wednesday 15 July 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr Stephen Hepburn                   Mr Denis Murphy
Kate Hoey                            Stephen Pound
Dr Alasdair McDonnell                David Simpson

1. Consultative Group on the Past

This matter was discussed.

2. Omagh: a decade after the bomb

This matter was discussed.

3. Policing and Justice in Northern Ireland

Chief Constable Sir Hugh Orde OBE and Assistant Chief Constable Drew Harris, Police Service of Northern Ireland, and David Cox, Director of the Historic Enquiries Team, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 14 October at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 14 October 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper                   Mr Denis Murphy
Mr Stephen Hepburn              Stephen Pound
1. **Cross-border Co-operation**

Draft Special Report (*Cross-border co-operation between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Government of Ireland: Government Response to the Committee’s Second Report of Session 2008-09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Second Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

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

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

2. **Omagh: a decade after the bomb**

This matter was discussed.

Ordered, That written evidence submitted by Mr John Ware relating to Omagh: a decade after the bomb be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 October at 2.30 p.m.

**Wednesday 21 October 2009**

Members present:

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<th>Lady Hermon</th>
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<td>Dr Alasdair McDonnell</td>
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In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Stephen Pound was called to the Chair for the meeting

1. **Future programme**

This matter was discussed.

2. **Omagh: a decade after the bomb**
This matter was discussed.

3. Northern Ireland Office: departmental expenditure

This matter was discussed.

4. Consultative Group on the Past

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Consultative Group on the Past in Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Northern Ireland Policing Board
- The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- Dr JE Hazlett Lynch

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 October at 11.30 a.m.]

Monday 26 – Wednesday 28 October

The Chairman, Rosie Cooper, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Lady Hermon, Dr Alasdair McDonnell, Mrs Iris Robinson and Mr David Simpson visited Northern Ireland in connection with the Committee’s inquiry into Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland, in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 1 April 2009.

Tuesday 27 October 2009

MORNING SITTING

The Committee met at Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper, Mr Stephen Hepburn, Mrs Iris Robinson, David Simpson

Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Peter Johnston, Director, BBC Northern Ireland; Michael Wilson, Managing Director, UTV; and Stuart Cosgrove, Director of Nations and Regions, Channel 4, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 October at 2.30 p.m.]
Tuesday 27 October 2009

AFTERNOON SITTING

The Committee met at Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair
Rosie Cooper
Lady Hermon
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland

Denis Wolinski, Director, Ofcom Northern Ireland; Stewart Purvis, Partner, Content and Standards, Ofcom; Seamus Dooley, Irish Secretary and Dot Kirby, Chair of the Northern Ireland Broadcasting Branch, National Union of Journalists; and Jannine Waddell, Northern Ireland Representative, and Dawn Simpson, Senior Policy Executive for Nations and Regions, Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 November at 2 p.m.

Wednesday 4 November 2009

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Mr John Grogan
Lady Hermon
Dr Alasdair McDonnell

Stephen Pound
Mrs Iris Robinson

1. Future programme

This matter was discussed.

2. Omagh: a decade after the bombing

This matter was discussed.

3. Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland
Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Television Broadcasting in Northern Ireland be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Supplementary submission from Northern Ireland Screen
- Supplementary submission from Northern Ireland Screen re: Independently Funded News Consortia
- Supplementary submission from Below the Radar
- Independent News and Media (NI)
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- UTV
- Ofcom

Siôn Simon, Minister for Creative Industries, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 November at 4.30 p.m.

**Wednesday 11 November 2009**

Members present:

Sir Patrick Cormack, in the Chair

Rosie Cooper  
Christopher Fraser  
Mr John Grogan  
Mr Stephen Hepburn  
Lady Hermon  
Kate Hoey  
Dr Alasdair McDonnell  
Mr Denis Murphy  
Stephen Pound  
Mrs Iris Robinson

1. **Future programme**

This matter was discussed.

2. **Omagh: a decade after the bombing**

Mr Norman Baxter, former Head of the Serious Crime Squad, and Mr David McWilliams, former Detective Chief Inspector, Police Service of Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 November at 4.30 p.m.]