



House of Commons
Liaison Committee

Minutes of Proceedings

Session 2005–06

Proceedings of the Committee

Thursday 21 July 2005

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Peter Ainsworth	Mr Michael Jack
Mr James Arbuthnot	Peter Luff
Mr Kevin Barron	Mr John McFall
Mr Alan Beith	Rosemary McKenna
Malcolm Bruce	Andrew Miller
Sir Patrick Cormack	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mr Andrew Dismore	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Frank Doran	Mr John Whittingdale
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr Phil Willis
Mr Eric Forth	Sir Nicholas Winterton
Dr Hywel Francis	Sir George Young
Mike Gapes	

1. Declaration of Interests

Members disclosed their interests, pursuant to the resolution of the House of 13 July 1992.

Mr Alan Williams Nil¹

2. Election of Chairman

Mr Alan Williams was called to the Chair.

Agreed, That the Chairman report his election to the House.

3. Administrative matters

The provisions regarding the confidentiality of committee papers and reports, as set out in Appendix 4 and 5 of the Guide for Select Committee Members were noted.

Resolved, That the Committee meet at 9.30am on Thursdays.

4. Consideration of Work Programme

Resolved, That the Chairman be given authority to discuss arrangements for the next evidence session with the Prime Minister.

¹ For details of Members interests see the Formal Minutes for the first meeting in the Parliament of each Committee whose chairman is a member of the Liaison Committee.

5. Any other Business

Resolved, That the Chairman write to the Leader of the House expressing concern at the delay in receiving government responses to select committee reports.

Resolved, That the Chairman write to the Leader of the House requesting clarification of the Government's intention for the Law Commission's 'scoping project' into post-legislative scrutiny.

6. Dates and Times of Next Meetings

Ordered, That the Committee will meet at the following times:

Thursday 20 October at 9.30 a.m., Tuesday 8 November at 5.30 p.m.

[Adjourned till Thursday 20 October at 9.30 a.m.]

Thursday 20 October 2005

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Peter Ainsworth	Mr Edward Leigh
Mr Alan Beith	Peter Luff
Malcolm Bruce	Rosemary McKenna
Sir Patrick Cormack	Andrew Miller
Mr John Denham	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr Andrew Dismore	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Eric Forth	Mr John Whittingdale
Dr Hywel Francis	Mr Phil Willis
Mike Gapes	Sir Nicholas Winterton
Mr Jimmy Hood	Dr Tony Wright
Mr Michael Jack	Sir George Young

1. Appointment of Sub-Committee

Ordered, That a Sub-Committee be appointed.

Resolved, That the following Members be members of the Sub-Committee:

Mr Alan Williams
 Mr Alan Beith
 Mr John Denham
 Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody
 Mr Michael Jack
 Mr Barry Sheerman

Dr Tony Wright
Sir George Young

Resolved, That the membership of the Sub-Committee should be reviewed in Session 2007–8.

2. Debates in Westminster Hall

Resolved, That the Committee recommend the following reports for debate in Westminster Hall:

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Foreign Policy Aspects of the War against Terrorism*, HC 36, Session 2004–05, and Cm 6590;

Home Affairs Committee, *Rehabilitation of Prisoners*, HC 193, Session 2004–05, and Cm 6486;

Science and Technology, *Scientific Publications: Free for all?* HC 399, Session 2003–04, and HC 1200 and HC 249;

Scottish Affairs, *Meeting Scotland's Future Energy Needs*, HC 259, Session 2004–05, and HC 579;

Transport, *Road Pricing: The Next Steps*, HC 218, Session 2004–05, and Cm 6560.

3. Overseas Travel

Resolved, That the Committee approve the following overseas visits:

Culture, Media and Sport Committee to Berlin, at a cost not exceeding £14,806;

Defence Committee to Germany, at a cost not exceeding £13,727;

Education and Skills Committee to the Netherlands and Spain, at a cost not exceeding £24,303;

Environmental Audit Committee to Helsinki and Copenhagen, at a cost not exceeding £33,360;

European Scrutiny Committee to Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey, at a cost not exceeding £40,284;

Foreign Affairs Committee to United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, and Israel and the Occupied Territories at a cost not exceeding £54,291;

Foreign Affairs Committee to Vienna and Prague, and Brussels and Warsaw, at a cost not exceeding £32,616;

Foreign Affairs Committee to New York and Washington, at a cost not exceeding £63,399;

Foreign Affairs Committee to Iraq, at a cost not exceeding £14,162;

Joint Committee on Human Rights to Canada, at a cost not exceeding £35,036;

Joint Committee on Human Rights to Madrid and Paris, at a cost not exceeding £19,908;

Treasury Committee to USA, at a cost not exceeding £64,545.

Resolved, That future lists of proposed bids for travel should contain the subject of the inquiry or inquiries to which each bid relates.

Resolved, That the Chairman's proposed amendments to the Guidelines for Overseas Travel be approved.

4. Any other Business

a) Note by the Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Chairman of the Procedure Committee to request that it return to the issues surrounding the sub-judice rule.

b) Government Responses to requests for information

Ordered, That Chairmen should inform the Chairman of the Liaison Committee of any refusal of Requests for Information by Government departments.

c) Law Commission Project on Post-Legislative Scrutiny

The Committee noted the letter from the Chairman to the Leader of the House dated 21 July 2005.

d) Financial Scrutiny by Select Committees

The Committee noted the paper by the Clerks concerning financial scrutiny by select committees.

e) Letter from the Clerk of the Standards and Privileges Committee to the Chairman

The Committee noted the extract from the Third Report of the Standards and Privileges Committee (HC 421, Session 2005–06):

“Notwithstanding this general guidance, we believe it would be prudent for select committee chairmen to think very carefully before taking up individual cases or taking on outside financial interests where there is a risk that their chairmanship may be perceived, or presented, as representing an undue advantage.”

f) Regulatory Reform Act 2001

Ordered, That the consultation announced by the Government on the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 November at 5.30 p.m.]

Tuesday 8 November 2005

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Peter Ainsworth	Mr Edward Leigh
Mr James Arbuthnot	Peter Luff
Mr Kevin Barron	Mr John McFall
Malcolm Bruce	Rosemary McKenna
Sir Patrick Cormack	Andrew Miller
Mr John Denham	Mr Terry Rooney
Mr Andrew Dismore	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr Frank Doran	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Eric Forth	Mr John Whittingdale
Dr Hywel Francis	Mr Phil Willis
Mike Gapes	Sir Nicholas Winterton
Mr Jimmy Hood	Dr Tony Wright
Mr Michael Jack	Sir George Young

1. Post-legislative Scrutiny

The letter to the Chairman of Committee from the Chairman of the Law Commission on post-legislative scrutiny, dated 19 November, was noted.

2. Evidence from the Prime Minister

Resolved, That the themes for the evidence session with the Prime Minister on 22 November be policy-making and reform, civil liberties and social cohesion, policy in the broader Middle East.

3. Webcasting of Committees

Resolved, That the Director of Broadcasting extend the pilot scheme of webcasting of committees as set out in her note dated 24 October.

4. Any other Business

a) Inquiry into sub-judice

Resolved, That the Procedure Committee be asked to return to this subject.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 November at 9.45 a.m.]

Tuesday 22 November 2005

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Peter Ainsworth	Mr Edward Leigh
Mr James Arbuthnot	Peter Luff
Mr Kevin Barron	Mr John McFall
Mr Alan Beith	Rosemary McKenna
Malcolm Bruce	Andrew Miller
Sir Patrick Cormack	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr John Denham	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mr Andrew Dismore	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Frank Doran	Mr John Whittingdale
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr Phil Willis
Mike Gapes	Dr Tony Wright
Mr Jimmy Hood	Sir George Young
Mr Michael Jack	

The Committee discussed the proposed line of questioning to the Prime Minister.

Evidence session with the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Tony Blair, a Member of the House, was examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday 8 December at 9.30 a.m.]

Thursday 8 December 2005

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Alan Beith	Peter Luff
Malcolm Bruce	Mr John McFall
Sir Patrick Cormack	Rosemary McKenna
Mr Andrew Dismore	Andrew Miller
Mr Frank Doran	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mike Gapes	Mr John Whittingdale
Mr Michael Jack	Mr Phil Willis
Mr Edward Leigh	

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

Resolved, That the Committee recommend the following reports for debate in Westminster Hall:

Constitutional Affairs, *Family Justice: the operation of the family courts*, HC 116, Session 2004-05, and Cm 6507;

Home Affairs Committee, *Anti-Social Behaviour*, HC 80, and Cm 6588.

2. Overseas Travel

Resolved, That the Committee approve the following overseas visits:

Constitutional Affairs Committee to Canada and the USA, at a cost not exceeding £61,862;

Defence Committee to Tampa, Washington DC and Norfolk, at a cost not exceeding £78,755;

Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee to USA and China, at a cost not exceeding £84,170;

Home Affairs Committee to Pakistan and India, and Nigeria and Ghana, at a cost not exceeding £80,843;

International Development Committee to Geneva at a cost not exceeding £9,895;

International Development Committee to Uganda and Sierra Leone, at a cost not exceeding £39,826;

International Development Committee to Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique at a cost not exceeding £71,500;

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee to Dublin, at a cost not exceeding £13,910;

Public Administration Committee to Stockholm and Helsinki, at a cost not exceeding £27,726;

Science and Technology Committee to Washington and New York, at a cost not exceeding £46,824;

Trade and Industry Committee to India, at a cost not exceeding £67,261;

Transport Committee to Washington DC, New York and Madrid at a cost not exceeding £63,761;

Welsh Affairs to Chicago and Denver, at a cost not exceeding £58,715;

Work and Pensions to Sweden or the Netherlands, at a cost not exceeding £14,519.

3. Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Resolved, That the Chairmen of the Constitutional Affairs Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights discuss the arrangements for the parliamentary accountability of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

4. Publication Timetable: Main Estimates, Supplementary Budgetary Information and the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury accepting the proposed revision to the publication timetable for the Main Estimates and certain other Budget related documents, subject to certain conditions.

5. Estimates Day

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had reported to the House the choice of Estimate for debate on the Estimates Day on 8 December, Department of Health, in so far as it relates to the Regulation of Pharmaceutical Industry.

6. Any other Business

a) Prime Minister's evidence to the Committee

Resolved, That the Committee review the effectiveness of the evidence session with the Prime Minister on 22 November.

The dates for the preparatory meetings for the oral evidence session with the Prime Minister in early 2006 were agreed.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 January at 5.30 p.m.]

Tuesday 24 January 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot	Mr John McFall
Mr Kevin Barron	Andrew Miller
Mr Alan Beith	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr Andrew Dismore	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Frank Doran	Mr John Whittingdale
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr Phil Willis
Mr Jimmy Hood	Dr Tony Wright
Mr Michael Jack	Mr Tim Yeo
Mr Edward Leigh	Sir George Young
Peter Luff	

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* the Reports to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Health Committee, New Developments in Sexual Health and HIV/Aids Policy, HC 252-I Session 2004–05 and Cm 6649;

Public Administration Committee, Choice, Voice and Public Services, HC 49-I Session 2004–05 and Cm 6630;

Quadripartite Committee, Strategic Export Controls HMG's Annual Report for 2003, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny, HC 145 Session 2004-05 and Cm 6638;

Science and Technology Committee, Human Reproductive Technologies and the Law, HC 7 Session 2004-05 and Cm 6641;

Treasury Committee, Cash Machine Charges, HC 191 Session 2004-05 and HC 359 Session 2005-06.

2. Reply from the Government to the Committee's Annual Report for 2004

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Government Reply to Annual Report for 2004), 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.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

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

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

3. Overseas Travel

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee approve the following overseas visits:

Armed Forces Bill Committee to Cyprus, at a cost not exceeding £30,786;

Armed Forces Bill Committee to Iraq, at a cost not exceeding £63,769;

Joint Committee on Human Rights to Canada additional funds not exceeding £3,377;

Culture, Media and Sport Committee to China and South Korea, at a cost not exceeding £66,404;

Defence Committee to Iraq, at a cost not exceeding £50,532;

Defence Committee to Afghanistan, at a cost not exceeding £71,035;

Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee to France, Germany, Poland and Romania, at a cost not exceeding £41,589;

Foreign Affairs Committee to China, at a cost not exceeding 86,439;

Foreign Affairs Committee to Belgium, Ukraine, Finland and Russia, at cost not exceeding £40,943;

Public Accounts Committee to USA, at a cost not exceeding £41,914;

Treasury Committee to United Arab Emirates and India, at a cost not exceeding £72,004;

Work and Pensions Committee to Sweden, at a cost not exceeding £14,519.

Ordered, That the Chairman write to Mr Speaker on the need to fund travel by the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill separately from the main travel budget.

Resolved, That the Chairman should continue to exercise his discretion when receiving requests from Members to take part in partial visit programmes.

4. Arrangements for the proposed evidence session with the Prime Minister

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the themes for the evidence session with the Prime Minister on 9 February be: outcome of UK Presidencies, the Government's reform agenda, and relations with Iran and their nuclear programme.

5. Select Committee requests for information

Resolved, That the Committee take note of the letter from the Chairman of the Treasury Committee.

6. Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill

Resolved, That the Committee take note of the letter from the Chairman of the Public Administration Select Committee on the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 7 February at 8.45 a.m.]

Tuesday 7 February 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot	Peter Luff
Mr Kevin Barron	Andrew Miller
Mr Alan Beith	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr John Denham	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mr Andrew Dismore	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Frank Doran	Mr John Whittingdale
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr Phil Willis
Mike Gapes	Dr Tony Wright
Mr Jimmy Hood	Mr Tim Yeo
Mr Michael Jack	Sir George Young
Mr Edward Leigh	

The Committee discussed the proposed line of questioning to the Prime Minister.

Evidence session with the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Tony Blair, a Member of the House, was examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday 16 March at 9.30 a.m.]

Thursday 16 March 2006

Members present:

Mr James Arbuthnot	Mr Edward Leigh
Mr Kevin Barron	Mr John McFall
Mr Alan Beith	Andrew Miller
Malcolm Bruce	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr Andrew Dismore	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mr Frank Doran	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr Phil Willis
Dr Hywel Francis	Mr Tim Yeo
Mike Gapes	Sir George Young
Mr Greg Knight	

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Sir George Young was called to the Chair for the meeting.

1. Estimates Day

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chairman report to the House that the Liaison Committee directed him to make the following recommendation for the allocation of time for the consideration of Estimates (being the second allotted day in the present Session of Parliament);

That a day no later than 20 March, pursuant to the Order of the House of 9 March, be allocated for consideration of the following Supplementary Estimates for the financial year 2005–06;

Ministry of Defence, in so far as it relates to costs of peacekeeping in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Department of Health, in so far as it relates to deficits in the NHS.

2. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee agreed the Reports to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall.

3. Overseas Travel

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee approve the following overseas visits:

Defence Committee to Germany, at a cost not exceeding £13,419;

Defence Committee to USA, at a cost not exceeding £82,604;

Environmental Audit Committee, to Amsterdam and Stockholm, at a cost not exceeding £37,679;

Health Committee to Sweden, at a cost not exceeding £13,825;

Health Committee to India and USA, at cost not exceeding £63,637;

Home Affairs Committee to India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Ghana, at a cost not exceeding £84,995;

Home Affairs Committee to France, at a cost not exceeding £7,449;

Joint Committee on Human Rights to Italy, at a cost not exceeding £14,813;

International Development Committee to Democratic Republic of the Congo, at a cost not exceeding £45,797;

International Development Committee to Pakistan, at a cost not exceeding £60,416.

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the House of Commons Commission seeking agreement to a carry over of funds from financial year 2005–06 into 2006–07.

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Leader of the House concerning liaison arrangements between the FCO and committees when planning travel.

4. Arrangements for the next evidence session with the Prime Minister

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 11 May at 9.30 a.m.]

Thursday 11 May 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams in the Chair

Malcolm Bruce	Mr John McFall
Sir Patrick Cormack	Andrew Miller
Mr Andrew Dismore	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mr Frank Doran	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr John Whittingdale
Dr Hywel Francis	Dr Tony Wright
Mr Michael Jack	

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* the Report to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall on 15 June 2006 would be:

Foreign Affairs Committee, First Report of Session 2005–06, HC 574 *Human Rights Annual Report 2005*, and Cm 6774.

The Committee *agreed* the Reports to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Health Committee, Second Report of Session 2005–06, HC 646 *Changes to Primary Care Trusts* and Cm 6760.

Culture Media and Sport Committee, Second Report of Session 2005–06, HC 650 *Analogue switch off*.

2. Correction of Transcripts: letter to witnesses

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* a new version of the current witness correction letter; the letter as drafted would be sent to all witnesses giving oral evidence to select committees.

3. Developing Links with the Law Commission

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* that the Chairman write to the Law Commission suggesting an informal meeting with the incoming Chairman of the Law Commission in the autumn and that informal links with the Law Commission should be further developed through departmental select committees.

4. Update on the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* that the Chairman write to the new Leader of the House using the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill to illustrate the importance of the role of select committees in effective pre-legislative scrutiny and requesting a meeting in the autumn.

5. Report by the Scrutiny Unit on departmental reports

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* the report—in its current format—would be made available to all members of select committees, a copy placed in the Library and on the internet.

6. Accountability of officials in respect of previous responsibility

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee noted Mr Jack's comments on calling witnesses for inquiries when the individuals had either retired or left the government.

7. Travel by Select Committees

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee noted comments from the Chairman of the International Development, Administration, Transport, Culture Media and Sport, and ODPM Committees on travel by select committees: including carbon-off setting and post-visit evaluation. The Committee *agreed* that these issues should be considered at a future meeting.

[Adjourned till Thursday 15 June at 9.30 a.m.]

Thursday 15 June 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot	Mr John McFall
Mr Alan Beith	Rosemary McKenna
Malcolm Bruce	Andrew Miller
Mr John Denham	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr Andrew Dismore	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mr Frank Doran	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr Phil Willis
Mike Gapes	Mr Tim Yeo
Mr Michael Jack	Sir George Young
Peter Luff	

1. Arrangements for the proposed evidence session with the Prime Minister

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the themes for the evidence session with the Prime Minister on 4 July 2006 be: Prime Minister's leadership style, Counter-terrorism strategy, Migration and population policy and International issues.

2. A New Publication Order for Select Committee Evidence

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (A New Publication Order for Select Committee Evidence), 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 6 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.

3. Estimates Day

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chairman report to the House that the Liaison Committee directed him to make the following recommendation for the allocation of time for the consideration of Estimates (being the third allotted day in the present Session of Parliament);

That a day no later than 3 July, pursuant to the Order of the House of 22 June, be allocated for consideration of the following Supplementary Estimates for the financial year 2005–06;

Department of Health, in so far as it relates to grant-in-aid to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority;

The Electoral Commission, in so far as it relates to The Electoral Commission.

4. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* the Report to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall on 13 July 2006 would be:

Work and Pensions Committee, *The Efficiency Savings Programme in Jobcentre Plus*, HC 834 I-II, Session 2005–06 and HC 1187 Session 2005–06.

The Committee *agreed* the following Report to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall:

Environmental Audit Committee, *Keeping the lights on: Nuclear, Renewables and Climate Change*, HC 584I-III Session 2005–06.

5. Overseas Travel

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee approve the following overseas visits:

Constitutional Affairs Committee to Canada and the USA, at a cost not exceeding £64,866;

Education and Skills Committee to the Republic of Ireland, at a cost not exceeding £9,898;

Education and Skills Committee to Australia, at a cost not exceeding £55,153;

Foreign Affairs Committee to India, Kashmir and Pakistan, at cost not exceeding £72,996;

International Development Committee to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, at a cost not exceeding £28,685;

Joint Committee on Human Rights to Strasbourg and Geneva, at a cost not exceeding £11,670;

Committee on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to Lille, at a cost not exceeding £8,145;

Procedure Committee to Berlin, at a cost not exceeding £18,534;

Public Administration to Boston and New York, at a cost not exceeding £54,726;

Science and Technology to Sydney and Canberra, at a cost not exceeding £55,263;

Trade and Industry to Argentina and Brazil, at a cost not exceeding £86,775;

Work and Pensions to New Zealand, at a cost not exceeding £69,531.

6. Beyond the Committee Room: Wider Engagement by Select Committees

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee noted a paper from the Clerks and the Report from a Working Group and *agreed* to discuss the Report at a meeting in the autumn.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 July at 8.45 a.m.]

Tuesday 4 July 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot	Peter Luff
Mr Kevin Barron	Andrew Miller
Mr Alan Beith	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr John Denham	Mr Barry Sheerman
Mr Andrew Dismore	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Frank Doran	Mr John Whittingdale
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr Phil Willis
Mike Gapes	Dr Tony Wright
Mr Jimmy Hood	Mr Tim Yeo
Mr Michael Jack	Sir George Young
Mr Edward Leigh	

The Committee discussed the proposed line of questioning to the Prime Minister.

Evidence session with the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Tony Blair, a Member of the House, was examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 July at 9.30 a.m.]

Thursday 13 July 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Malcolm Bruce	Mr Michael Jack
Mr John Denham	Mr Edward Leigh
Mr Andrew Dismore	Peter Luff
Mr Frank Doran	Mr John McFall
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr Barry Sheerman
Dr Hywel Francis	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mike Gapes	Mr John Whittingdale
Mr Jimmy Hood	Sir George Young

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* the Reports to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Education and Skills Committee, Third Report of Session 2005–06, HC 478, *Special Educational Needs*, and Cm 6940;

International Development Committee, Third Report of Session 2005–06, HC 730, *The WTO Hong Kong Ministerial and the Doha Development Agenda*, and HC 1425.

2. Unauthorised disclosure of reports

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* that the Chairman write to all Select Committee Chairmen reminding all members of Select Committees of the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of reports until their publication.

3. Financial Scrutiny

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee took note of the paper from the Head of the Scrutiny Unit. The Committee *agreed* to hold a deliberative meeting in the autumn on financial scrutiny.

4. Meeting Times of Select Committees

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee took note of a letter from the Leader of the House to the Chairman, concerning sitting times of Standing and Select Committees. The Committee *agreed* that all Select Committee Chairman should consult their individual committees and the Chairman would reply to the Leader once the responses were received.

5. Scrutiny of National Security

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee considered a letter from Rt Hon Bruce George MP on scrutiny of national security.

[Adjourned till Thursday 26 October at 9.30 a.m.]

Thursday 19 October 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Alan Beith	Mr John McFall
Malcolm Bruce	Andrew Miller
Michael Connarty	Mr Terry Rooney
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Mr John Whittingdale
Dr Hywel Francis	Mr Phil Willis
Mike Gapes	Dr Tony Wright
Mr Michael Jack	Sir George Young
Mr Edward Leigh	

1. Financial Scrutiny

The Committee considered financial scrutiny. Short presentations were given by Edward Leigh MP, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee; Alex Brazier, Director, Parliament and Government Programme, Hansard Society; Tim Burr, Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General, National Audit Office; David McGee, Clerk of the House of Representatives, New Zealand; and Dorian Gerhold, Head of the Committee Office Scrutiny Unit.

[Adjourned till Thursday 26 October at 9.30 a.m.]

Thursday 26 October 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot	Mr Edward Leigh
Malcolm Bruce	Peter Luff
Michael Connarty	Andrew Miller
Sir Patrick Cormack	Mr Mohammad Sarwar
Mr John Denham	Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Andrew Dismore	Mr John Whittingdale
Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Dr Tony Wright
Mike Gapes	Sir George Young
Mr Michael Jack	

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered this matter.

The Committee *agreed* the Reports to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Communities and Local Government Committee: *Affordability and the Supply of Housing*, HC 703 Session 2005–06 and Cm 6912;

Culture, Media and Sport Committee: *Protecting and Preserving our Heritage*, HC 912 Session 2005–06 and Cm 6947;

Home Affairs Committee: *Terrorism Detention Powers*, HC 910 Session 2005–06 and Cm 6906;

Joint Committee on Human Rights: *Counter-Terrorism Policy and Human Rights: Prosecution and Pre-Charge Detention*, HC 1576/HL 240 Session 2005–06 and Cm 6920 (combined debate with Home Affairs);

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee: *Organised Crime in Northern Ireland*, HC 886 Session 2005–06 and HC 1642 Session 2005–06;

Public Administration Select Committee: *The Ombudsman in question: the Ombudsman's report on Pensions and its constitutional implications*, HC 1081 Session 2005–06 and Cm 6961.

2. Overseas Travel

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee approve the following overseas visits by select committees:

Constitutional Affairs to Berlin, at a cost not exceeding £4,815²;

Culture, Media and Sport to Athens, at a cost not exceeding £17,558;

Defence to Brussels, at a cost not exceeding £9,513;

Defence to NATO Member State Capitals, at a cost not exceeding £17,250;

European Scrutiny to Berlin, at a cost not exceeding £21,834;

Foreign Affairs to Guantánamo Bay, at a cost not exceeding £30,057³;

Foreign Affairs to Turkey, Cyprus, Brussels and Berlin, at a cost not exceeding £39,841;

Foreign Affairs to Tel Aviv, Palestinian Territories, Cairo, Beirut and Damascus, at a cost not exceeding £63,115;

International Development to Ethiopia, at a cost not exceeding £47,443;

Northern Ireland Affairs to Dublin, at a cost not exceeding £15,678;

Treasury to Dublin, at a cost not exceeding £14,124.

3. Financial Scrutiny

a) Deliberative Session

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee take note of the summary report of the deliberative session on Thursday 19 October.

b) Estimates Memoranda: Draft Report

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Estimates Memoranda), 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 6 read and agreed to.

Ordered, That a paper be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Third Report of the Committee to the House.

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

² Approved by the Committee on 13 July 2006

³ Approved by the Chairman under his discretion on 24 July 2006

4. Meeting with Leader of the House: Tuesday 21 November

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the issues to be raised with Mr Straw on Tuesday 21 November should include: Estimates Memoranda, access to papers, Modernisation Committee proposals for public bill committees, post-legislative scrutiny and European scrutiny—implementation of Modernisation Committee proposals.

Resolved, That the meeting be held in private.

Resolved, That the Committee take note of the paper on the implications for select committees of the Modernisation Committee's Report on The Legislative Process.

5. Quorum of the Quadripartite Committee

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee approve the proposal to amend the Standing Orders to widen the scope of the 'reduced' quorum of the Quadripartite Committee to exclude only the consideration of draft reports.

6. Sewel Convention

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee take note of a paper from the Clerk of the Scottish Affairs Committee on its Fourth Report of Session 2005-06, *The Sewel Convention: the Westminster perspective* and approve the proposal that the House be invited to agree to the Committee's Report.

7. Any Other Business

a) Witness Feedback

Resolved, That the Committee approve the use of the witness feedback form.

b) Reporting of Select Committee Evidence Sessions

Resolved, That the Committee take note of the paper on developments in the reporting and coverage of select committee oral evidence sessions.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 21 November at 5.30 p.m.]

Proceedings of the Sub-Committee

Tuesday 1 November 2005

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr John Denham

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody

Mr Michael Jack

Mr Barry Sheerman

Dr Tony Wright

Sir George Young

The Committee discussed themes for the forthcoming evidence session with the Prime Minister.

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

Thursday 19 January 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr John Denham

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody

Mr Michael Jack

Sir George Young

The Committee discussed themes for the forthcoming evidence session with the Prime Minister.

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

Tuesday 13 June 2006

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Alan Beith

Mr John Denham

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody

Mr Michael Jack

Mr Barry Sheerman

Dr Tony Wright

Sir George Young

The Committee discussed themes for the forthcoming evidence session with the Prime Minister.

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