

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4 MARCH 2015 at 3.00 PM
COMMITTEE ROOM 21**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Tracey Crouch MP Sir Gerald Kaufman MP Brandon Lewis MP (<i>ex officio</i>)	Bridget Phillipson MP, Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.

In public

Max Caller, Chair and Jolyon Jackson, Chief Executive, LGBCE gave evidence.

Jenny Watson, Chair, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, Carolyn Hughes, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Alex Robertson, Director of Communication, Electoral Commission gave evidence.

The Committee sat in private

The Committee considered the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 3.55 pm

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 24 MARCH 2015 at 3.00 PM
SPEAKER'S STUDY**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Tracey Crouch MP Sir Gerald Kaufman MP; Brandon Lewis MP (<i>ex officio</i>)-	Bridget Phillipson MP Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.

Having regard to the advice from HM Treasury, the Committee agreed the Electoral Commission's and LGBCE's estimates and corporate plans.

2. Appointment of temporary Accounting Officer for the Electoral Commission

The Committee approved the appointment of Carolyn Hughes as temporary Accounting Officer at the Electoral Commission until the appointment of a new Chief Executive.

3. Consideration of the draft report on the Work of the Committee 2014-15

The Committee agreed the draft report on the Work of the Committee [this Report contained the minutes of the meetings on 16 December 2014 and 4 March 2015, which were agreed without modification].

[The Committee adjourned to a time and date to be set by the Chair at 3.25 pm

SCEC FM 03 (2015)

**SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 21 OCTOBER 2015 at 5.30 PM
SPEAKER'S STUDY**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (<i>ex officio</i>), in the Chair	
Bernard Jenkin MP (<i>ex officio</i>)	Sir Gerald Kaufman MP;
Jessica Morden MP	Bridget Phillipson MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP	Pete Wishart MP

1. Appointment of the Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

The Committee agreed that Professor Colin Mellors should be the new Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The Committee consider a letter from Max Caller, current Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and agreed that the Chair would write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government about the delay in appointing ordinary LGBCE Commissioners, and that the letter should be copied to the Prime Minister.

2. Appointment of Accounting Officer for the Electoral Commission

The Committee agreed to appoint Claire Bassett, the newly appointed Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission, as the Commission's Accounting Officer.

3. Appointments to the Electoral Commission

The Committee considered the appointment of a successor to the Chair of the Electoral Commission, and the appointment of a further Electoral Commissioner. The Committee agreed to amend the terms and conditions of the Chair to the Commission to reduce the time commitment to two days per week, as recommended by the current Chair. This would be subject to review one year into the next appointment. The Committee agreed the post should be non-pensionable, as was the case for other similar positions.

The Committee agreed to take a further paper on the issue of whether there should be a pre-appointment hearing for a new Chair of the Electoral Commission

The Committee agreed that Mr Speaker would write to the Presiding Office of the Scottish Parliament to ask her to nominate an MSP to serve on the panel for the recruitment of a new Electoral Commissioners with special responsibility for Scotland.

4. Update from the Electoral Commission: EU Referendum planning assumptions and public awareness activity to support Individual Electoral Registration (IER)

The Committee considered EU Referendum planning assumptions and public awareness activity to support Individual Electoral Registration.

The Committee agreed that:

- The Commission should continue to incur expenditure in preparing to deliver the EU referendum in line with the estimates included the letter dated 30 September between Eve Samson and Carolyn Hughes and Appendix A to that letter; and that
- The Commission could apply the savings from the IER budget to fund the activity in preparing for the EU referendum in 2015-16;

[The Committee adjourned to a time and date to be set by the Chair at 6.30 pm