



House of Commons
Treasury Sub-Committee

Formal Minutes

Session 2005–06

Proceedings of the Committee

Wednesday 12 October 2005

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Lorely Burt	Mr George Mudie
Jim Cousins	Mr David Ruffley
Susan Kramer	Mr Mark Todd
Kerry McCarthy	Peter Viggers
John McFall	

1. *The Sub-Committee's programme of work*

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. *HM Revenue & Customs: administration and expenditure in 2004-05*

Mr David Varney, Executive Chairman, Mr Paul Gray, Deputy Chairman, and Miss Sarah Walker, Director, Benefits and Credits, HM Revenue & Customs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19 October at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 19 October 2005

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Lorely Burt	Kerry McCarthy
Damian Green	John McFall
Ms Sally Keeble	Mr Mark Todd
Susan Kramer	Peter Viggers
Mr Andrew Love	

1. *The Sub-Committee's programme of work*

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Sub-Committee propose to the Committee that the Sub-Committee conduct an inquiry into the administration of tax credits.

2. National Savings and Investments: administration and expenditure in 2004–05

Mr Alan Cook, Chief Executive, and Mr Trevor Bayley, Finance Director, National Savings and Investments, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 26 October at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 26 October 2005

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Lorely Burt	Kerry McCarthy
Jim Cousins	John McFall
Damian Green	Mr George Mudie
Ms Sally Keeble	Mr David Ruffley
Susan Kramer	Mr Mark Todd
Mr Andrew Love	Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Sub-Committee take evidence from the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on child trust funds.

2. HM Revenue & Customs: administration and expenditure in 2005–06

Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Paymaster General, Mr Mike Hanson, Director General, Operational Delivery, and Miss Sarah Walker, Director, Benefits and Credits, HM Revenue & Customs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 November at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 2 November 2005

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Ms Sally Keeble	John McFall
Susan Kramer	Mr Mark Todd
Mr Andrew Love	Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. Statistics Commission: administration and expenditure in 2004-05

Professor David Rhind, Chairman, Mr Richard Alldritt, Chief Executive, and Mr Martin Weale, Commissioner, Statistics Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 November at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 9 November 2005

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Lorely Burt
Susan Kramer
Kerry McCarthy
John McFall

Mr George Mudie
Mr Mark Todd
Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. Office for National Statistics: Annual Report and Accounts 2004-05

Ms Karen Dunnell, National Statistician, Ms Hilary Douglas, Chief Operating Officer, Mr Dennis Roberts, Executive Director for Registration, and Mr Colin Mowl, Executive Director, Macroeconomics and Labour Market, Office for National Statistics, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16 November at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 16 November 2005

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Lorely Burt	Kerry McCarthy
Jim Cousins	John McFall
Damian Green	Mr David Ruffley
Susan Kramer	Mr Mark Todd
Mr Andrew Love	Peter Viggers

1. *The Sub-Committee's programme of work*

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. *HM Treasury: administration and expenditure in 2004–05*

Mr Nicholas Macpherson, Permanent Secretary, Mr Jonathan Stephens, Managing Director, Public Services, Ms Mary Keegan, Managing Director, Government Financial Management, Ms Sue Owen, Director of Operations, HM Treasury, and Mr John Oughton, Chief Executive, Office of Government Commerce, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 30 November at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 30 November 2005

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Jim Cousins	Mr George Mudie
Ms Sally Keeble	John McFall
Susan Kramer	Peter Viggers
Kerry McCarthy	

1. *The Sub-Committee's programme of work*

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. *Child Trust Funds: update on progress*

Mr Ivan Lewis MP, Economic Secretary, HM Treasury, Mr Mike Wells, Director, Savings, Pensions and Share Schemes, HM Revenue & Customs, and Mr Tony Orhnia, Director, Personal Tax and Welfare Reform, HM Treasury, gave oral evidence.

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

Wednesday 11 January 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Lorely Burt	Mr George Mudie
Ms Sally Keeble	John McFall
Susan Kramer	Mr Mark Todd
Mr Andrew Love	

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. The administration of tax credits

Ms Katie Lane, Senior Policy Officer, and Ms Jackie Fielding, Income Maximization Worker, Selby CAB, Citizens Advice, Ms Kate Green, Chief Executive, Child Poverty Action Group, and Ms Kate Bell, Policy and Research Officer, One Parent Families, gave oral evidence.

Ms Liz Lathwood, Technical Officer, Personal Taxes, Chartered Institute of Taxation, and Mr Robin Williamson, Technical Director, Chartered Institute of Taxation (Low Incomes Tax Reform Group), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 January at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 18 January 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Lorely Burt	John McFall
Ms Sally Keeble	Mr Brooks Newmark
Mr George Mudie	Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. The administration of tax credits

Mr Kevin Higgins, Head of Policy and Research, Advice Northern Ireland, Ms Caryl Williamson, Regional Co-ordinator for Advice and Information, Age Concern Northern Ireland, Ms Siobhan Harding, Information and Policy Officer, and Ms Andrea Bedell, Senior Adviser, Ballymena Citizens Advice Bureau, Citizens Advice Northern Ireland, gave oral evidence.

Ms Jean Jesty, President and Chairman of the Technical Committee, Association of Taxation Technicians, and Ms Jane Moore, Technical Manager, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, gave oral evidence.

Mr Mike Brewer, Programme Director, Direct Tax and Welfare, Institute for Fiscal Studies, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 January at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 25 January 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon (in the chair)

Lorely Burt
Jim Cousins
Ms Sally Keeble
Susan Kramer

Mr Andrew Love
Mr George Mudie
John McFall
Mr Brooks Newmark

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That those memoranda received as part of the Sub-Committee's inquiry into the administration of tax credits that are not yet publicly available should now be made available to the Paymaster General and HM Revenue & Customs.

2. The administration of tax credits

Rt Hon Frank Field MP, gave evidence.

Mr Ian Lawrence, Group Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union, and Ms Lynne Wallace, PCS Representative, Tax Credits Office, HM Revenue & Customs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 1 February at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 1 February 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Lorely Burt	Kerry McCarthy
Jim Cousins	Mr George Mudie
Ms Sally Keeble	Mr Brooks Newmark
Mr Andrew Love	Mr Mark Todd
John McFall	Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. The administration of tax credits

Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Paymaster General, Mr Tony Orhrial, Director, Personal Tax and Welfare Reform, HM Treasury, and Ms Sarah Walker, Director, Benefits and Tax Credits, HM Revenue & Customs, gave oral evidence.

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

Monday 13 March 2006

The Chairman, Ms Sally Keeble, Kerry McCarthy, John McFall, and Mr Mark Todd visited the Tax Credits Office in Preston, United Kingdom in accordance with the decision of the Treasury Committee on 14 February 2006.

Wednesday 19 April 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Jim Cousins	Kerry McCarthy
Mr David Gauke	Mr Brooks Newmark
John McFall	Mr Mark Todd

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. The administration on tax credits

Sir David Varney, Executive Chairman, Mr Paul Gray, Deputy Chairman, Mr Stuart Hartlib, Director, National Compliance, Mr Steve Lamey, Chief Information Officer, and

Mr Richard Summersgill, Director, Child Benefit and Tax Credit Operations, HM Revenue & Customs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 17 May at 2.15 pm

Wednesday 17 May 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Mr David Gauke	Mr Brooks Newmark
Ms Sally Keeble	John Thurso
John McFall	Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. The Office of Government Commerce: administration and expenditure in 2004–05

Mr John Oughton, Chief Executive, Mr Peter Fanning, Deputy Chief Executive, Mr Hugh Barrett, Chief Executive, OGCbuying.solutions, Mr Martin Sykes, Executive Director, and Mr David Rossington, Executive Director, Office of Government Commerce, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 May at 9.30 am.

Tuesday 23 May 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Jim Cousins	Mr George Mudie
Mr David Gauke	Mr Brooks Newmark
Ms Sally Keeble	John Thurso
Mr Andrew Love	Mr Mark Todd
John McFall	Peter Viggers

1. The administration of tax credits

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (The administration of tax credits), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to and reported to the House. The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report from the Treasury Committee, Session 2005–06 (HC 811), p 99.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24 May at 2.15 pm.

Wednesday 24 May 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Mr Colin Breed

Mr David Gauke

John McFall

Mr Brooks Newmark

John Thurso

Mr Mark Todd

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. Independence for statistics

Mr Simon Briscoe, Statistics Editor, Financial Times, Ms Ruth Lea, Director, Centre for Policy Studies, and Professor Alison Macfarlane, City University London, gave oral evidence.

Professor Tim Holt, President, and Mr John Pullinger, Chair, National Statistics Working Party, Royal Statistical Society, gave oral evidence.

Mr Keith Dugmore, Chair, and Ms Jill Leyland, Society of Business Economists' representative, Statistics User Forum, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 7 June at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 7 June 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

John McFall

Mr Brooks Newmark

John Thurso

Mr Mark Todd

Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

2. Independence for statistics

Dr Ivan Fellegi, Chief Statistician of Canada, gave oral evidence.

Professor David Rhind, Chairman, Sir Derek Wanless, Vice Chairman, and Mr Richard Alldritt, Chief Executive, Statistics Commission, gave oral evidence.

Mr Rob Wishart, Chief Statistician, Scottish Executive, and Professor Denise Lievesley, Chief Executive, Information Centre for Health and Social Care, gave oral evidence.

Ms Karen Dunnell, National Statistician, Mr Dennis Roberts, Director, Registration and Corporate Services, and Mr Mike Hughes, Director, National Statistics and Planning, Office for National Statistics, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 14 June at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 14 June 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Mr Colin Breed
Mr David Gauke
Ms Sally Keeble
Mr Andrew Love
Kerry McCarthy

John McFall
Mr Brooks Newmark
John Thurso
Mr Mark Todd
Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Independence for statistics

Lord Claus Moser, a Member of the House of Lords, gave oral evidence.

John Healey MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, gave oral evidence.

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

Tuesday 18 July 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Ms Sally Keeble	Mr George Mudie
Mr Andrew Love	Mr Brooks Newmark
Kerry McCarthy	John Thurso
John McFall	Mr Mark Todd

1. Independence for statistics

Draft Report (Independence for statistics), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to and reported to the House. The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Tenth Report from the Treasury Committee, Session 2005–06 (HC 1111) p 76.

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

Wednesday 18 October 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Mr David Gauke	John Thurso
John McFall	Mr Mark Todd
Mr Brooks Newmark	Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee considered this matter

2. HM Treasury: administration and expenditure in 2005–06

Mr Nicholas Macpherson, Permanent Secretary, Ms Mary Keegan, Managing Director, Government Financial Management, Ms Sam Beckett, Director of Operations, Ms Mridul Brivati, Director, Public Spending, HM Treasury, and Mr John Oughton, Chief Executive, Office of Government Commerce, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 November at 2.15 pm.]

Wednesday 1 November 2006

Members present:

Mr Michael Fallon, in the Chair

Mr David Gauke

Ms Sally Keeble

John McFall

Mr George Mudie

Mr Brooks Newmark

Mr Mark Todd

Peter Viggers

1. The Sub-Committee's programme of work

The Sub-Committee deliberated.

2. Government Actuary's Department: administration and expenditure in 2005–06

Mr Chris Daykin, Government Actuary, Mr Andrew Johnston, Deputy Government Actuary, and Mr Kevin Down, Director of Finance, Government Actuary's Department, gave oral evidence.

3. Royal Mint: administration and expenditure in 2005–06

Mr David Barrass, Interim Chief Executive, Royal Mint, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 22 November at 2.15 pm.]