



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

Wednesday 21 February 2018

ATTENDANCE

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
- Lord Hope of Craighead
- Lord Laming
- Lord McFall of Alcluith
- Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Smith of Basildon

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. Apologies were received from Lord Wakeham. Liz Hewitt and Mathew Duncan participated by teleconference.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Commission agreed the record of discussion of the previous meeting on 18 December 2017 and took note of the short paper on the security risks associated with the various Restoration and Renewal Programme delivery options.

2. Restoration and Renewal of the Palace of Westminster: Governance Arrangements

Paper from Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom, Leader of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, Leader of the House of Lords, and Tom Healey, Director of the Restoration and Renewal Programme
C/17-19/22 RESERVED

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, the Leader of the House, presented the paper and Tom Healey, the Director of the Restoration and Renewal Programme, explained some of the background to the paper, including the structure of the shadow bodies and the requirement for this to be established by primary legislation.

Questions were asked about budgetary controls, audit arrangements, member communications and the rate of remuneration for the external members of the shadow Sponsor Board.

The main discussion focused on the proposed recruitment process and the member composition of the shadow Sponsor Board. Lord Hope of Craighead said that there should be a crossbench peer on the Board and, after discussion, the Commission agreed. The Leader of the House said that she would present this request to the Leader of the House of Commons ahead of the House of Commons Commission meeting at which a similar discussion would take place. The Leader also said that she would bring another



paper to the Commission before the summer recess proposing the membership of the shadow Sponsor Board.

The Commission agreed the proposed governance arrangements for the R&R Programme and the Leader of the House agreed to convey the agreement of the Commission regarding crossbench representation on the shadow Sponsor Board to the Leader of the House of Commons.

3. Strategic Estates Draft Business Plan 2018/19

Paper from Ian Ailles, Director General of the House of Commons and Acting Managing Director of Strategic Estates (from 1 April)

C/17-19/24 RESERVED

Ian Ailles, the Director General of the House of Commons, presented the paper and explained that the Business Plan incorporated all recent reviews and a vision for Strategic Estates in the future. Members asked questions about security screening for contractors and employees and morale levels among the staff of Strategic Estates. There was also a discussion about Senior Responsible Owners (SROs) possessing sufficient technical experience and knowledge. The Commission noted that the language of the paper was, in places, difficult to understand and asked if it could be reviewed in the light of this observation.

Finally, he said that he hoped there would be a permanent Managing Director in place by the end of the Summer.

The Commission took note of the draft Business Plan.

4. Audit Committee Update and Elizabeth Tower Report

Presentation and Report from Liz Hewitt, Chair of the Audit Committee

C/17-19/25 RESERVED

C/17-19/25 RESERVED

Liz Hewitt, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the update and the Commission took note. She explained that the Elizabeth Tower report presented an opportunity to improve controls and reporting in the future. The Commission agreed that quarterly updates on the project would be best dealt with by the Finance Committee.

5. Finance Committee Update

Paper from Baroness Doocey, Chair of the Finance Committee

C/17-19/26 RESERVED

Baroness Doocey presented the update and the Commission took note.

6. Cyber Security: User Responsibilities

Paper and Draft Policy from Steven Mark, Director, Cyber Security Programme, Parliamentary Digital Service

C/17-19/27 RESERVED

C/17-19/27 RESERVED



Tracey Jessup, Director of the Parliamentary Digital Service, and Steven Mark, Director of the Cyber Security Programme, presented a set of draft user responsibilities for all users of the Parliamentary network. A discussion took place about communications and they agreed to use posters and screens around the Estate to publicise the responsibilities. They also agreed to provide encrypted memory sticks to the Whips' Offices and the Office of the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers.

The Commission agreed the draft user responsibilities and endorsed the communications approach.

7. Lord Speaker's Advisory Panel on Works of Art: Financial Support for Members

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/28 RESERVED

The Clerk of the Parliaments explained a little of the history of the Panel and the fact that until the summer of 2016 it enjoyed the status of a formal Committee of the House. In the light of a request for clarification about the precise status of the meetings of the Panel, he proposed that the *Guide to Financial Support for Members* be amended to include meetings of the panel in the list of attendances which qualify a member to make a claim for the daily allowance. The Commission agreed to amend the *Guide* accordingly.

8. Update on the House of Lords Administration

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/29 RESERVED

Ed Ollard informed the Commission that the new Black Rod had started work, explained leadership changes in Strategic Estates and provided details of the ongoing negotiations with the licensee of the Sports and Social Bar.

9. Any Other Business

The Leader of the House confirmed that she would present a proposal on allowances at the next meeting. She also said that she would be presenting a paper on the new process for implementing the recommendations of the Cross-Party Working Group on an Independent Complaints and Grievance Policy at the same meeting.

A short discussion took place about the current process for bringing a complaint about a member of the House to the Commissioner for Standards and the time taken for the process to be completed.

It was agreed that a seminar would take place on public sector accounting and financial management and that all Commission members would be invited to attend.

Patrick Milner
Secretary to the Commission