



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

Wednesday 21 March 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
- Lord Wakeham

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. Apologies were received from Mathew Duncan (external member). Liz Hewitt (external member) participated by teleconference.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Commission agreed the record of discussion of the previous meeting on 21 February.

2. CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

Paper from The Rt Hon. Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, Leader of the House
C/17-19/30 RESERVED

The Lord Speaker invited those present in receipt of the daily allowance to declare that as an interest. Declarations were made.

The Leader of the House presented the paper. She proposed that, from 1 April, the daily allowance and reduced daily allowance be increased on an annual basis in line with the annual IPSA determinations for increases to MPs' salaries. She explained that, subject to the agreement of the Commission, a Resolution would be tabled for agreement in the House. She also invited the Commission to report to the House accordingly and explained that they would be debated together in the House on Tuesday 27 March.

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** to report to the House proposing that, from 1 April, the daily allowance and reduced daily allowance be increased on an annual basis in line with the annual IPSA determinations for increases to MPs' salaries.

3. **CROSS-PARTY WORKING GROUP ON AN INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCE POLICY: PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP**

Paper from The Rt Hon. Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, Leader of the House of Lords
C/17–19/31 RESERVED

The Leader of the House presented the paper and explained that Lord Hope of Craighead had stood down from the Group and that Baroness Young of Hornsey had joined in his place. The Commission thanked Lord Hope for his work on the Group.

Lord McFall of Alcluith explained the work which would have to be carried out by the Privileges and Conduct Committee and the Lords' Conduct Sub-Committee and the subsequent decisions which would have to be made by the House. The Lord Speaker **agreed** to write to the chairman of the Sub-Committee to explain the necessary information. Lord McFall of Alcluith also explained that the Commission would have to agree the Behaviour Code in due course. The Clerk of the Parliaments **agreed** to provide a summary of the various work streams and processes underway in this area.

The Commission **took note** of the Working Group's Report and the decision of the House of Commons on 28 February; **authorised** the Clerk of the Parliaments to expend staff time and resource working with the House of Commons Service on the workstreams authorised by the House of Commons on 28 February; and **referred** to the Sub-Committee on Lords Conduct the recommendations of the Working Group concerning the process for investigating and resolving complaints of bullying, harassment and sexual harassment against members and the appropriateness of the available sanctions, in order to implement the Working Group's recommendations in the House of Lords.

4. **CYBER SECURITY UPDATE AND ASHTON REVIEW OF CYBER SECURITY**

Cover Note from Tracey Jessup, Director of the Parliamentary Digital Service
Slideshow presentation from Steven Mark, Head of Cyber Security and Alex Wilson, Cyber Security Programme Manager
Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, David Natzler, Clerk of the House of Commons and Ian Ailles, Director General of the House of Commons.
C/17–19/32 RESERVED

Tracey Jessup, Director of the Parliamentary Digital Service and Steven Mark, Head of Cyber Security presented the papers and explained the background to the Ashton Review.

[More information – Restricted Access]

Members asked questions about the take-up levels of cyber security training and business continuity plans. Tracey Jessup undertook to respond to a specific question about unsecured nature of the Internet Direct wifi network and why using 4G mobile data may be more secure than using an unsecured network when working off the

Parliamentary Estate. The Commission congratulated the Parliamentary Digital Service on the progress they had made in recent months in the area of cyber security.

5. DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS ADMINISTRATION 2018/19

Paper from Jake Vaughan, Reading Clerk and Head of Corporate Services
C/17-19/33 RESERVED

Ed Ollard presented the paper and after amendments to include references to the Working Group on an Independent Complaints and Grievance Policy and the Gender Pay Gap Report were agreed to, the Commission **agreed** the draft Business Plan.

6. USE OF BODY-WORN VIDEO BY POLICE OFFICERS ON THE PARLIAMENTARY ESTATE

Paper from Fay Tennet, Deputy Director of Security (Operations) for Parliament
C/17-19/34 RESERVED

Eric Hepburn, Director of Security for Parliament, and Fay Tennet, Deputy Director of Security (Operations) for Parliament, presented the paper and after a short discussion the Commission **took note** of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Metropolitan Police Service.

7. GENDER-SENSITIVE PARLIAMENT AUDIT

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/35 RESERVED

Ed Ollard presented the paper and explained the proposed project and the timescales involved. He also explained that group carrying out the work would be made up of eight members and staff from each House. The Commission discussed the importance of taking forward recommendations made by the group in their final report.

8. UPDATE ON THE HOUSE OF LORDS ADMINISTRATION

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/36 RESERVED

Ed Ollard explained that the House of Lords Administration would soon be publishing the Gender Pay Gap Report as required by law. of the published figures would reflect the fact that only a minority of senior roles in the Administration were currently held by women; more needed to be done to increase this proportion. Members asked specific questions about the positive and negative effects of job sharing arrangements and flexible working for women working in the House of Lords.

The Clerk of the Parliaments explained the preparations which were underway ahead of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements coming into force. A programme of communications with members was planned to take place in due course.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Lord Speaker explained that, following press reports, he had been contacted by a number of members about the decision to adopt a new UK Parliament branding and logo for external communications purposes, and the costs involved. After a discussion, the Commission expressed a desire for decisions of this nature to be brought to the attention of the relevant member bodies at a far earlier stage.

The Lord Speaker informed the Commission that he had received a letter from Lord Balfe and Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale requesting a review of certain rules relating to financial support for members. The Clerk of the Parliaments **agreed** to bring a paper to the Commission in due course.

The Commission also **agreed** that the members of the House who would eventually sit on the R&R Shadow Sponsor Board would be entitled to claim the full daily allowance on the days they attended formal meetings of the Shadow Sponsor Board.

21 March 2018

Patrick Milner
Secretary to the Commission