



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Decisions

Tuesday 11 September 2018

ATTENDANCE

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
- Liz Hewitt (external member)
- 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.

The Lord Speaker welcomed Dr Mark Bennister from Canterbury Christchurch University who was shadowing the Lord Speaker for two days following his time shadowing Mr Speaker and the House of Commons Commission.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Commission **agreed** the record of discussion of the previous meeting of the House of Lords Commission on 4 July 2018.

2. House of Lords Decant Venue: QEII

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/49 RESERVED

The Commission **took note** of the paper.

3. Restoration & Renewal: Draft Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Bill

Paper from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, Leader of the House and Lord Privy Seal
C/17-19/50 RESERVED

The Commission **took note** of the paper.

4. Restoration & Renewal: Shadow Sponsor Board Memorandum of Understanding

Paper from Tom Healey, Director, Restoration & Renewal Programme
C/17-19/51 RESERVED

The Commission **agreed** a change to paragraph 18, deleting the third bullet point and replacing it with “Any major enlargement of scope or change of strategy or direction”.

The Commission **agreed** the revised Memorandum of Understanding with an amendment.

The Commission **took note** of the letter from Sir Paul Beresford MP, Chair of the House of Commons Administration Committee, to the House of Commons Commission and the letter from The Rt Hon. John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, to the Lord Speaker which both concerned matters relating to the composition of the shadow sponsor board.

5. Annual Report and Resource Accounts and Audit Committee Update

Paper and presentation from Liz Hewitt, Chair, Audit Committee
C/17-19/54 RESERVED and C/17-19/55 RESERVED

The Commission **took note**.

6. Audit Committee: Appointment of New Members

Paper from the Lord Speaker
C/17-19/56 RESERVED

The Commission **agreed** the membership changes.

7. Cyber Security Update

Paper from Steven Mark, Director, and Alex Wilson, Programme Manager, Cyber Security Programme and presentation from Steven Mark, Director, Cyber Security Programme
C/17-19/57 RESERVED and C/17-19/58 RESERVED

The Commission **took note** of the ongoing need, from April 2019, for work to improve Parliament’s and Members’ cyber security, and the level of funding that this may require and **took note** of the paper and presentation.

8. Amendments to the Guide to Financial Support for Members

Paper from Jonathan Smith, Head of Finance, Letter from Lord Balfe and Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale to the Lord Speaker and Letter from Lord Naseby to the Lord Speaker
C/17-19/59 RESERVED, C/17-19/60 RESERVED and C/17-19/61 RESERVED

Mr Smith presented the paper the Commission discussed the proposals. After discussion the Commission agreed:

- a) To **endorse** the current approach for claims relating to inclement weather, mindful of the principle the Administration will seek to apply is that a Member should not be financially disadvantaged provided that Members make

reasonable efforts to mitigate the additional costs incurred and that evidence of the additional costs is provided.

- b) **To only reimburse** taxi costs due to travel disruption inside of and outside of London resulting from strike action following consultation with the Clerk of the Parliaments and Finance Director, treating each case on its merit and that the Commission should review this decision after 12 months
- c) **To report** to the House on changes to the provision for European Travel for parliamentary purposes, namely to extend eligibility under the scheme to travel for parliamentary purposes to and from other states in Europe, with the eligible states being member states of the EU, member states of the Council of Europe, member states of the European Free Trade Association, and the Holy See;
- d) That that **the Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit ought to attract the reduced daily allowance** and that certain limits should apply for such claims, namely that only two members from each of the four relevant committees mentioned mentioned in the paper be eligible to claim the reduced rate allowance, should they wish, and that their attendance be confirmed to the Finance Department by the clerk of their relevant committee as being activity on behalf of that committee; and
- e) **To note** that an updated version of the *Guide to Financial Support for Members* has been published.

The Commission **rejected** Lord Naseby's claim for reimbursement of the London Congestion Charge, noted that elements of Lord Balfe's and Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale's claims were covered by the agreements above and **rejected** Lord Balfe's and Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale's claim for reimbursement of costs incurred as a result of their travel to and from Helsinki.

9. Update on the House of Lords Administration

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/62 RESERVED

The Commission **took note** of the paper.

10. Any Other Business

The Lord Speaker informed the Commission that the next meeting would take place on Monday 5 November at 4pm in his room and that there would not be a Commission meeting in October.

11 September 2018

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