



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

Monday 5 November 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.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Commission agreed the record of discussion of the previous meeting of the House of Lords Commission on 11 September 2018.

2. Bullying and Harassment

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/63 RESERVED

The Clerk of the Parliaments set out the argument for establishing an independent inquiry into bullying and harassment in the House of Lords. He suggested that Liz Hewitt and Mathew Duncan be appointed to recruit and select the inquirer and agree the terms of reference for the inquiry. He hoped that the inquiry could be launched before Christmas recess.

Commission members discussed how best to communicate the setting up of the inquiry and the Clerk of the Parliaments agreed to arrange that the inquiry be publicised to all members and all members of staff the following day. Lord Hope of Craighead suggested that this be mentioned at all party and group meetings.

The Commission **agreed** to approve the establishment of an independent inquiry into bullying and harassment in the House of Lords as proposed.

3. Revision of the Guide for Members of the Delegations

Paper from Matthew Hamlyn, Principal Clerk, Overseas Office, House of Commons
C/17-19/64 RESERVED

Matthew Hamlyn and Nick Wright from the House of Commons Overseas Office presented the paper. Jake Vaughan, Reading Clerk and Head of the House of Lords Overseas Office was also present. He explained that the delegations were good value for money and member satisfaction was high.

The Commission **agreed** the 19 proposed changes to the *Guide for Members of the Delegations* and noted that the new edition of the *Guide* would be circulated to all delegation members and published on the Parliament website.

4. Update on the House of Lords Administration

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/65 RESERVED

The Clerk of the Parliaments explained the latest developments on the recently published Draft Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Bill and the steps which will be required to appoint a Joint Committee for the purposes of pre-legislative scrutiny. He understood that the aim was that the Committee should report by the end of March. He also briefed the Commission on the second independent inquiry on bullying and harassment in the House of Commons.

The Commission **took note**.

5. Any Other Business

The Lord Speaker raised the matter of the Pugin Room and said that the recent changes to access rules had been agreed by the House of Commons Administration Committee without any prior-consultation with the House of Lords. Lord Laming, the Chairman of the Services Committee, agreed to communicate the feelings expressed by Commission members to Sir Paul Beresford MP, Chairman of the House of Commons Administration Committee.

The refurbishment of Fielden House was discussed, and Baroness Doocey, Chairman of the Finance Committee, said that she had been examining the works and that she would update the Commission on the progress of the project in due course.

The Lord Speaker informed the Commission that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 5 December at 10.30am in his Room. [This meeting was subsequently cancelled].

5 November 2018

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