



HOUSE COMMITTEE

MINUTES 18 OCTOBER 2011

Present:

L. Alderdice
L. Baker of Dorking
L. Brabazon of Tara
L. Craig of Radley
B. D'Souza (Chairman)
L. Laming
B. McIntosh of Hudnall
L. McNally
B. Royall of Blaisdon
L. Strathclyde
L. Wakeham

together with the Clerk of the Parliaments.

Apologies were received from Baroness Hollis of Heigham (participating in the Welfare Reform Bill in Grand Committee).

Also present: David Leakey (Black Rod), Andrew Makower (Finance Director) and Jonathan Smith (Head of Finance).

The Committee met at 4:00pm on Tuesday 18 October in Committee Room 3A.

The Lord Speaker welcomed the new Convenor of the Crossbench Peers, Lord Laming, to the Committee. The Lord Speaker, in this her first meeting in the chair, expressed a wish that meetings could be shorter and more focused.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Committee *agreed* the minutes of the last meeting.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

There were no matters arising.

3. RECOVERY OF MONEY WRONGLY CLAIMED BY MEMBERS

The Clerk of the Parliaments spoke to his memorandum (H/10-12/62) RESERVED.

The Committee *agreed* to option 2 set out in the memorandum – to deny entitlement to allowances so long as money wrongly claimed had not been repaid. It was also *agreed* that Members affected by option 2 would not be able to claim travel expenses. It would now be necessary to agree a report reflecting these decisions and for the Leader of the House then to put an amended resolution on financial support before the House for agreement.

4. CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENTS' BRIEFING

The Clerk of the Parliaments spoke to his memorandum ([H/10-12/63](#)).

On the issue of the House of Commons Savings Programme, the Clerk of the Parliaments said that a consultation document would be circulated to Committee members, with an invitation to comment, in order to inform the House of Lords Administration's response. At its meeting in December, the Committee would be invited to comment on the House of Lords' financial plan.

The Committee paid tribute to the Director of Facilities for his first class management of the Millbank House project.

It was noted that this meeting should serve as a model for future meetings, on account of its focus and brevity.

The Committee *took note*.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Lord Speaker informed the Committee of a potential development that might arise in relation to the arrangement whereby UK MEPs may apply for a parliamentary pass giving them access to the House of Lords only. The Committee reiterated its position that it was right in principle that UK MEPs could apply for a parliamentary pass giving them access to the House of Lords only.

November 2011

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