

Evidence to the Digital Democracy Commission from Oonagh Gay OBE, House of Commons staff

I would like to reiterate the point I have made to the House of Commons Governance Committee on the accessibility to the public, staff and Members of *Erskine May*. Given the importance of creating a Parliament which is fully open and understandable, I think that the current production arrangements are unsustainable and should be urgently addressed.

Status of *Erskine May*

I think that it is time to consider the processes for producing the House's procedural bible, *Erskine May*. At present, this essential guide to the practices and procedure of the House is the responsibility of a charitable trust and is published by Butterworths. This long standing arrangement means that there are considerable cost implications in producing an electronic version of *May*, freely accessible to all on the internet. Comparable Commonwealth parliaments have their equivalent procedural guides online as a matter of course. *May* is the gold standard of advice and should be owned by its Parliament