



House of Commons

Business, Innovation and Skills
Committee

Formal Minutes

Session 2009–10

The Business, Innovation and Skills Committee

The Business, Innovation and Skills Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Current membership

Peter Luff MP (*Conservative, Mid Worcestershire*) (Chairman)
Roger Berry MP (*Labour, Kingswood*)
Mr Brian Binley MP (*Conservative, Northampton South*)
Mr Michael Clapham MP (*Labour, Barnsley West and Penistone*)
Mr Lindsay Hoyle MP (*Labour, Chorley*)
Miss Julie Kirkbride MP (*Conservative, Bromsgrove*)
Anne Moffat MP (*Labour, East Lothian*)
Mr Mark Oaten MP (*Liberal Democrat, Winchester*)
Lembit Öpik MP (*Liberal Democrat, Montgomeryshire*)
Ian Stewart MP (*Labour, Eccles*)
Mr Anthony Wright MP (*Labour, Great Yarmouth*)

Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/parliamentary_committees

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/bis>

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are: James Davies (Clerk), Ben Williams (Second Clerk), Louise Whitley (Inquiry Manager), Aruni Muthumala (Economist), Anita Fuki (Senior Committee Assistant), Eleanor Scarnell (Committee Assistant), Jim Hudson (Committee Support Assistant), and Laura Humble (Media Officer).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerks of the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5777; the Committee's email address is biscom@parliament.uk

Proceedings of the Committee

Monday 23 November 2009

The Chairman, Mr Brian Binley, Miss Julie Kirkbride and Mr Anthony Wright visited Northampton in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Motorsport and aerospace industries, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 20 July.

Tuesday 24 November 2009

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Roger Berry
Mr Brian Binley
Mr Lindsay Hoyle

Miss Julie Kirkbride
Mr Mark Oaten
Lembit Öpik

1. MG Rover

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Committees on Arms Export Controls

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Pub Companies Report

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Motorsport and aerospace industries

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Broadband speed

Ed Richards, Chief Executive, Ofcom, Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, and Rachel Clark, Broadcasting and Content Director, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 December at 10.15 a.m.]

Tuesday 1 December 2009

[The Committee met concurrently with the Culture, Media and Sport Committee]

Members present:

Mr Michael Clapham
Miss Julie Kirkbride
Peter Luff

Ian Stewart
Mr Anthony Wright

The following members of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee were also present, in accordance with Standing Order No. 137A.

Janet Anderson
Phillip Davies
Mr Mike Hall

Mr Adrian Sanders
Mr Tom Watson
Mr John Whittingdale

Peter Luff was called to the Chair, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 137A (1).

1. Declaration of interests

Mr Ian Stewart declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992.

2. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from the Federation of Small Businesses concerning independent retailers.

3. Broadband speed

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Broadband speed be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Name of Organisation
BBBritain
Motion Picture Association

4. Departmental Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09

Ordered, That the National Audit Office be authorized to publish their written evidence on the Departmental Annual Report, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No.135.

Mr John Whittingdale was called to the Chair, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 137A (1).

5. Ofcom Annual Report 2009-10

Dr Colette Bowe, Chairman, and Ed Richards, Chief Executive, Office of Communications, gave oral evidence.

Peter Luff was called to the Chair, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 137A (1).

Dr Colette Bowe, Chairman, and Ed Richards, Chief Executive, Office of Communications, gave oral evidence.

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee withdrew.

Dr Colette Bowe, Chairman, and Ed Richards, Chief Executive, Office of Communications, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 December at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 8 December 2009

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Members present:

Mr Michael Clapham

Mr Lindsay Hoyle

Miss Julie Kirkbride

Lembit Öpik

Ian Stewart

Mr Anthony Wright

1. The creation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Departmental Annual Report 2008–09

Draft Report (*The creation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Departmental Annual Report 2008–09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, Session 2009–10, HC 160).

2. The work of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Future Programme

Resolved, That the Committee visit Rolls-Royce in Derby to inquire into its inquiry into the motor sport and aerospace industries.

4. Pub companies: follow-up

David Rusholme FRICS, Director, RICS Valuation Professional Group, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, gave oral evidence.

Brigid Simmonds OBE, Chief Executive, British Beer and Pub Association and Alistair Darby, Managing Director, Martsons Pub Company, gave oral evidence.

Kate Nicholls, Secretary, Independent Pub Confederation, Karl Harrison, Fair Pint Campaign, Simon Clarke, publican and member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Garry Mallen, publican and member of the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 December at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 15 December 2009

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Roger Berry
Mr Michael Clapham
Miss Julie Kirkbride

Lembit Öpik
Ian Stewart
Mr Anthony Wright

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to re-open the New England post office by residents of Millfield and New England.

2. The work of the Committee in 2008–09

Draft Report (*The work of the Committee in 2008–09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee, Session 2009–10, HC 195).

3. Risk and Reward: sustaining a higher value-added economy: Government Response

Draft Special Report (*Risk and Reward: sustaining a higher value-added economy: Government Response to the Business and Enterprise Committee's Eleventh Report of Session 2008–09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Eleventh Report from the Business and Enterprise Committee in Session 2008–09 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

4. Winter Supplementary Estimates Memorandum

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to Winter Supplementary Estimates Memorandum be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Motorsport and aerospace industries

Chris Aylett, Chief Executive, Motorsport Industry Association, Colin Hilton, Chief Executive, Motor Sport Association, Andrew Manahan, Managing Director, Lola Group, Mike Dickison, Principal Lecturer in Automotive Engineering, Coventry University, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 12 January 2010 at 10.:00 a.m.]

Tuesday 12 January 2010

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Roger Berry
Mr Michael Clapham
Mr Lindsay Hoyle
Miss Julie Kirkbride

Lembit Öpik
Ian Stewart
Mr Anthony Wright

1. Petition

The Committee considered the observation by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on the petition from members of the Federation of Small Businesses and others urging Government to take steps to secure the future of small shops across the UK.

2. Exporting out of recession

Draft Report (*Exporting out of recession*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Committee, Session 2009–10, HC 266).

3. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Company takeovers, mergers and acquisitions

Professor Christopher Bones, Henley Business School, gave oral evidence.

Jack Dromey, Deputy General Secretary, and Jennie Formby, National Officer for Food, Drink and Tobacco, Unite the Union, gave oral evidence.

Ian Lucas MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 January at 4.00 p.m.]

Monday 18 January 2010

The Chairman, Miss Julie Kirkbride and Lembit Öpik visited Rolls-Royce in Derby in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Motorsport and aerospace industries, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 8 December 2009.

Tuesday 19 January 2010

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Roger Berry	Mr Mark Oaten
Mr Michael Clapham	Lembit Öpik
Mr Lindsay Hoyle	Ian Stewart
Miss Julie Kirkbride	Mr Anthony Wright

1. Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme

Draft Special Report (*Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme: Government Response to the Business and Enterprise Committee's Tenth Report of Session 2008–09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Tenth Report from the Business and Enterprise Committee in Session 2008–09 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. The work of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Rt Hon Lord Mandelson, First Secretary of State, and Pat McFadden MP, Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 January at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 26 January 2010

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Mr Michael Clapham
Mr Lindsay Hoyle
Miss Julie Kirkbride

Lembit Öpik
Mr Anthony Wright

1. Petition

The Committee considered an observation by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a petition by residents of Millfield and New England relating to post office closures.

2. Committees on Arms Export Controls

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Motorsport and the aerospace industries

Ian Lucas MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Simon Carter, Business Relationship Manager, AMI Automotive Unit, and Huw Walters, Head of Aerospace, Marine and Defence, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till tomorrow at 9.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 2 February 2010

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Mr Brian Binley

Roger Berry

Mr Michael Clapham

Mr Lindsay Hoyle

Miss Julie Kirkbride

Lembit Öpik

Ian Stewart

Mr Anthony Wright

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Further Education funding and the Skills Funding Agency

Pam Alexander, Chief Executive and Oona Muirhead, Executive Director, South East England Development Agency; Michael Davis, Director of Strategy and Performance, UK Commission for Employment and Skills; Martin Doel, Chief Executive and Ioan Morgan, Principal of Warwickshire College, Association of Colleges, and Councillor David Sparks, Chairman of the LGA Regeneration and Transport Board, Local Government Association, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 Feb at 9.45 a.m.]

Tuesday 9 February 2010

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Mr Brian Binley

Mr Michael Clapham

Mr Lindsay Hoyle

Miss Julie Kirkbride

Lembit Öpik

Mr Anthony Wright

1. MG Rover

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Company takeovers, mergers and acquisitions

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from Kraft and Cadbury.

3. Broadband speed

Draft Report (*Broadband*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report of the Committee, Session 2009–10, (HC 72).

4. Further Education funding and the Skills Funding Agency

Peter Lauener, Chief Executive, Young People's Learning Agency, Geoff Russell, Chief Executive, and David Cragg, Interim Chief Executive, Skills Funding Agency, gave oral evidence.

Kevin Brennan MP, Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 February at 10.30 a.m.]

Tuesday 23 February 2010

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Roger Berry
Mr Brian Binley

Lembit Öpik
Ian Stewart

1. Pub companies: follow-up

Draft Report (*Pub companies: follow-up*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Committee, Session 2009–10, (HC 138).

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 March at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 9 March 2010

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Roger Berry

Mr Brian Binley

Mr Michael Clapham

Miss Julie Kirkbride

Mr Lindsay Hoyle

Mr Anthony Wright

1. Company takeovers, mergers and acquisitions

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Motorsport and aerospace industries

Draft Report (*Full speed ahead: maintaining UK excellence in motorsport and aerospace*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report of the Committee, Session 2009–10, (HC 173).

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 March at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 16 March 2010

Members present:

Peter Luff, in the Chair

Roger Berry

Mr Brian Binley

Mr Michael Clapham

Miss Julie Kirkbride

Mr Lindsay Hoyle

Lembit Öpik

Ian Stewart

1. Company takeovers, mergers and acquisitions

Jack Dromey, Deputy General Secretary, and Jennie Formby, National Officer, Food and Drinks Sector, Unite the Union, gave oral evidence

Mark Firestone, Executive Vice-President, Kraft Foods Inc., Trevor Bond, President, and Richard Doyle, HR Director, Cadbury Britain & Ireland, Cadbury/Kraft, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 March at 10.00 a.m.]

Annex

Tuesday 1 December 2009

Mr Ian Stewart declared membership of Unite; fellowship of Salford University and being registered for a PhD at Manchester University.