



House of Commons
Health Committee

Formal Minutes of the Committee

Session 2007-08

The Health Committee

The Health Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department of Health and its associated bodies.

Membership

Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP (*Labour, Rother Valley*) (Chairman)
Mr David Amess MP (*Conservative, Southend West*) (discharged 22.10.07)
Charlotte Atkins MP (*Labour, Staffordshire Moorlands*)
John Austin MP (*Labour, Erith and Thamesmead*) (discharged 31.10.05)
Mr Peter Bone MP (*Conservative, Wellingborough*) (added 10.12.07)
Mr Paul Burstow MP (*Liberal Democrat, Sutton & Cheam*) (discharged 24.4.06)
Mr Ronnie Campbell MP (*Labour, Blyth Valley*) (added 31.10.05, discharged 26.11.07)
Jim Dowd MP (*Labour, Lewisham West*)
Sandra Gidley MP (*Liberal Democrat, Romsey*) (added 24.4.06)
Stephen Hesford MP (*Labour, Wirral West*) (added 26.11.07)
Mr Stewart Jackson (*Conservative, Peterborough*) (added 11.12.06, discharged 16.07.07)
Anne Milton MP (*Conservative, Guildford*) (discharged 11.12.06)
Dr Doug Naysmith MP (*Labour, Bristol North West*)
Mike Penning MP (*Conservative, Hemel Hempstead*) (discharged 10.12.07)
Mr Lee Scott MP (*Conservative, Ilford North*) (added 16.07.07)
Dr Howard Stoate MP (*Labour, Dartford*)
Mr Robert Syms MP (*Conservative, Poole*) (added 22.10.07)
Dr Richard Taylor MP (*Independent, Wyre Forest*)

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 www.parliament.uk.

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 www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/health_committee.cfm.

Committee staff

The staff of the Committee are Dr D F Harrison (Clerk), Adrian Jenner (Second Clerk), Ralph Coulbeck (Committee Specialist) until 31.03.08, Laura Daniels (Committee Specialist) from 4.03.08, Christine Kirkpatrick (Committee Specialist) until 31.12.07, David Turner (Committee Specialist) from 7.07.08, Frances Allingham (Committee Assistant), Julie Storey (Secretary) and Jim Hudson (Senior Office Clerk).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Health Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 6182. The Committee's email address is healthcom@parliament.uk.

Proceedings of the Committee

Thursday 8 November 2007

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Howard Stoate
Jim Dowd	Robert Symms
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Future Programme

The Committee discussed this matter.

2. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from residents of the London Boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth, Croydon, Lewisham and others against the closure of the 24-hour emergency health clinic at the Maudsley Hospital, Camberwell.

3. Public Expenditure Questionnaire (PEQ)

A memorandum from the Department of Health relating to the Public Expenditure Questionnaire was ordered to be reported to the House for printing.

4. Modernising Medical Careers

Several Memoranda relating to the modernising Medical Careers inquiry were ordered to be reported to the House for printing.

5. The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chairman, and Andrew Dillon, Chief Executive, National Institute for Clinical Excellence NICE; Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of Health, Dr Felicity Harvey, Head of Medicines, Pharmacy & Industry Group, and Dr Sunjai Gupta OBE, Deputy Director, Public Health Strategy, Social Marketing and Sexual Health, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 15 November at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 15 November 2007

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Robert Symms
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor
Mr Lee Scott MP	

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Public Expenditure Questionnaire (PEQ)

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Modernising Medical Careers

Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer, Professor Martin Marshall, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Clare Chapman, Director General of Workforce, and Nic Greenfield, Deputy Director of Workforce, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 22 November at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 22 November 2007

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Jim Dowd	Robert Symms
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor
Mike Penning	

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from those concerned about the proposed closure of the ambulance emergency operations centre in Shrewsbury.

2. Public Expenditure Questionnaire (PEQ)

David Nicholson CBE, NHS Chief Executive, Hugh Taylor CB, Permanent Secretary, David Flory, Director General of NHS Finance, Performance and Operations, and Richard Douglas, Director General, Finance & Chief Operating Officer, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 29 November at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 29 November 2007

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Jim Dowd	Mr Lee Scott
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Stephen Hesford	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Declaration of Interests

Stephen Hesford declared two unremunerated interests: non-executive directorship of Wirral Mind; and non-executive directorship of ARCH Initiatives, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992.

2. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from those concerned about funding of GP practices in Haverhill, Suffolk.

3. Public Expenditure Questionnaire (PEQ)

Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Health, David Nicholson CBE, NHS Chief Executive, and Richard Douglas, Director General, Finance & Chief Operating Officer, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 6 December at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 6 December 2007

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Stephen Hesford	Mr Robert Syms
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor
Mr Lee Scott	

1. Future programme

The Committee discussed this matter.

2. Health Inequalities

Resolved, That the Committee visit the European Commission in Brussels, in early 2008, in connection with its inquiry into health inequalities.

3. Modernising Medical Careers

Professor Sir John Tooke, Dean of Peninsula Medical School, and Sir Jonathan Michael, Deputy Managing Director, BT Healthcare; Dr Richard Marks, Head of Legal Team, and Mr Matthew Jameson Evans, Press Co-ordinator, Remedy UK, and Professor Steve O'Rahilly, University of Cambridge, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 December at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 13 December 2007

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Mr Lee Scott
Mr Peter Bone	Dr Howard Stoate
Stephen Hesford	Dr Richard Taylor
Dr Doug Naysmith	

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the petition to the House from those concerned about delays to the construction of a community hospital in Braintree, Essex. The Committee also considered the petition to the House from those concerned about carers' allowance.

2. Dental Services

Ordered, That Dr Paul Batchelor and Professor Kenneth Eaton be appointed Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Dental services.

3. Future programme

The Committee discussed this matter.

4. Modernising Medical Careers

Professor Alan Crockard, former National Director, MMC (England), and Professor Shelley Heard, former National Clinical Advisor to MMC; Dr Jo Hilborne, former chair, Junior Doctors Committee, and Dr Ian Wilson, BMA Consultants Committee, British Medical Association, Dr Ramesh Mehta, President, British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, and Mark Johnston, Managing Director, Methods Consulting, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 17 December at 3.00 pm.]

Monday 17 December 2007

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Jim Dowd	Dr Richard Taylor

1. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Draft Report (*National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence*), 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, HC 27-I.

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 10 January 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 10 January 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Mr Lee Scott
Mr Peter Bone	Dr Howard Stoate
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Declaration of interest

Mr Peter Bone declared no pecuniary or other interests pursuant to the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992.

2. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from the Alzheimer's Society (South Buckinghamshire branch) concerning the extension of grants for carers.

3. Future Programme

The Committee discussed this matter.

4. Dental Services

The Committee discussed this matter.

5. Health Inequalities

Ordered, That Professor Alan Maynard be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters relating to the Health Inequalities Inquiry.

[Adjourned till Thursday 17 January 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 17 January 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Mr Peter Bone	Mr Lee Scott
Jim Dowd	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Health Inequalities

Ordered, That Professor Sheila Adam and Dr Alex Scott-Samuel be appointed Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in matters relating to the Health Inequalities Inquiry.

Resolved, That the Committee visit New Zealand in May 2008 in connection with its inquiry into Health Inequalities, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the said visit.

3. Dental Services

The Committee discussed this matter.

4. Modernising Medical Careers

Professor Dame Carol Black, Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Mr Bernard Ribeiro, President, Royal College of Surgeons, and Dr Bill Reith, Chair of Postgraduate Training Board, Royal College of GPs; Professor Elizabeth Paice, Dean Director, London Deanery, Professor David Sowden, Dean, East Midlands Healthcare Workforce Deanery, and Professor Sarah Thomas, Dean, South Yorkshire and South Humber Postgraduate Deanery, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 24 January 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 24 January 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Mr Lee Scott
Mr Peter Bone	Dr Howard Stoate
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Modernising Medical Careers

Resolved, That the evidence session planned for 1 February in connection with the MMC Inquiry be postponed until 18 February.

2. Future Programme

The Committee discussed this matter.

3. Dental Services

Several memoranda relating to Dental Services were ordered to be reported to the House for printing.

4. Modernising Medical Careers

Professor Peter Rubin, Professor Neil Douglas, Head of the Douglas Review, and Professor Sir Nick Wright, Warden, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry; Anne Rainsberry, Director of Workforce, NHS London, Dr Moira Livingston, Strategic Head of Workforce and Deputy Medical Director, NHS Northeast, and Sian Thomas, Deputy Director, NHS Employers, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 7 February 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 7 February 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Mr Peter Bone	Mr Lee Scott
Jim Dowd	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor
Stephen Hesford	

1. Work of the Committee 2007

Draft Report [*Work of the Committee 2007*], 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 HC 337.

2. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from the customers of the Swan Hotel, Bacup, Rossendale, concerning the legislation on smoking in public places.

3. Future Programme

The Committee discussed this matter.

13. Dental Services

Eddie Crouch, and John Renshaw, Challenge, and John Taylor, former Chief Executive, Dental Practice Board; Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer, Ben Dyson, Director of Primary Care, and David Lye, Head of Dentistry and Eye Care Services, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 18 February 2008 at 3.30 pm.]

Monday 18 February 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Mr Peter Bone	Mr Robert Syms
Jim Dowd	Dr Richard Taylor
Stephen Hesford	

1. Modernising Medical Careers

Judith Macgregor, Director of Migration, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Lorraine Rogerson, Director, Policy & Head of Profession at the Border and Immigration Agency; Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Health, Hugh Taylor, Permanent Secretary, Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer, and Clare Chapman, Director of Workforce, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 21 February 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 21 February 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Mr Lee Scott
Mr Peter Bone	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor
Dr Doug Naysmith	

1. Health Inequalities

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Norway in the week beginning 11 May in connection with its inquiry into Health Inequalities, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. Modernising Medical Careers

The Committee considered this matter

4. Dental Services

Helen Delaitre, Acting Head of Primary Care, Hillingdon PCT, Karen Elley, Consultant Dental Public Health, Sandwell PCT, and Andrew Harris, Primary Care Manager, Devon PCT; Iain Hathorn, Chairman, British Orthodontist Society, Susie Sanderson, Chair, Executive Board, British Dental Association, and David Smith, Dental Laboratories Association, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 28 February 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 28 February 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Mr Peter Bone	Dr Doug Naysmith
Jim Dowd	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Mr Robert Syms
Stephen Hesford	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Health Inequalities

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Scotland and rural Wales in connection with its Health Inequalities Inquiry.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Netherlands on Monday 17 March before moving onto Brussels later that day, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. Future Programme

Resolved, That the Committee undertake an inquiry following publication of Lord Darzi's review of the NHS which is expected to be completed this summer.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from Department of Health Ministers to follow-up previous Committee inquiries held in this Parliament.

3. Dental Services

John Green, Director of Dental Public Health, Sheffield Primary Care Trust, Jane Davies-Slowik, Clinical Director, Salaried services, and Melvyn Smith, Senior Lecturer Dental Public Health; Sarah Elworthy, a Dentist working in Cranbrook, Kent, Margaret Naylor, a Dentist working in Rotherham and Sheffield, and Derek Watson, Chief Executive, Dental Practitioners' Association gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 6 March 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 6 March 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Sandra Gidley	Mr Lee Scott
Stephen Hesford	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions to the House:

On behalf of residents of the London Borough of Bexley and others, to save services at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, presented by Derek Conway MP on 26 February 2008; and

From the residents of Chorley and others seeking increased funding from the Department of Health for an increase in direct funding to hospitals, presented by Mr Lindsay Hoyle MP on 27 February 2008.

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Dental Services

Dr Anthony Halperin, Chairman, Patients Association, and Teresa Perchard, Policy Director, Citizens Advice Bureau; Ann Keen MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health Services, Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer, and David Lye, Head of Dentistry and Eye Care Services, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 March 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 13 March 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Howard Stoate
Mr Peter Bone	Mr Robert Syms
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor
Stephen Hesford	

1. Health Inequalities

Several memoranda relating to Health Inequalities were ordered to be reported to the House for printing.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Health Inequalities

Una O'Brien, Director General of Policy and Strategy, Dr Fiona Adshead, Director General, Health Improvement, and Mark Britnell, Director General, Commissioning and System Management, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 27 March 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Sunday 16 – Wednesday 19 March

The Chairman, Charlotte Atkins, Sandra Gidley, Dr Doug Naysmith, Mr Robert Syms, and Dr Richard Taylor visited The Hague and Brussels in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Health Inequalities in accordance with the Committee's decision of 6 December 2007.

Thursday 27 March 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Mr Lee Scott
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Stephen Hesford	Mr Robert Syms
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions to the House:

On behalf of patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis seeking approval for two new drug treatments by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), presented by Gillian Eames MP on 13 March;

From patients, families, and friends of the Department of Dermatology in Wirral Hospital NHS Trust about changes to the provision of dermatology services, presented by Ben Chapman MP on 17 March 2008; and

From the residents of Wirral calling for the provision of a Minor Injuries Unit and Out of Hours service in South Wirral, presented by Ben Chapman on 19 March 2008.

2. Dental Services

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Health Inequalities

Anna Dixon, Acting Director of Policy, The King's Fund, Hilary Graham, Professor of Health Sciences, University of York, and Margaret Whitehead, Professor of Public Health, University of Liverpool; Kay-Tee Khaw, Professor of Clinical Gerontology, University of Cambridge, Sir Michael Marmot, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London, and Chairman of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, and Richard Wilkinson, Professor of Social Epidemiology, University of Nottingham, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 3 April 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 3 April 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Jim Dowd	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor
Stephen Hesford	

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from the Rt. Rev. Neville Chamberlain (Master of Hugh Sexey's Hospital) and others of like disposition concerning primary care services in Bruton, Somerset, presented by Mr David Heath MP on 26 March 2008.

2. Health Inequalities

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee hold a pre-appointment hearing on 8 May with the candidate for Chair of the Care Quality Commission.

4. Health Inequalities

Dr Jacky Chambers, Director of Public Health, Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT, David Stout, Director of PCT Network, NHS Confederation, and Alwen Williams, Chief Executive, Tower Hamlets PCT; Dr Paula Grey, Joint Director of Public Health, Liverpool PCT/Liverpool City Council, Andy Hull, Divisional Manager, Public Protection and Regeneration, Liverpool City Council, and Jamie Rentoul, Head of Strategy, The Healthcare Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 24 April 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 24 April 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Mr Peter Bone	Stephen Hesford
Jim Dowd	Dr Doug Naysmith
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Modernising Medical Careers

Draft Report, (*Modernising Medical Careers*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read the first time.

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, HC 25-I.

2. NHS Next Stage Review

Resolved, That the Committee undertake an inquiry into the NHS Next Stage Review.

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Public Expenditure Questionnaire

Ordered, That Professor John Appleby be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into the Public Expenditure Questionnaire.

Adjourned till Wednesday 30 April 2008 at 9.00 am.

Wednesday 30 April 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Mr Peter Bone	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor
Stephen Hesford	

1. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee visit Glasgow in connection with Health Inequalities, on 18 and 19 June.

Resolved, That the Committee hold an evidence session with: Ivan Lewis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Services on 26 June; Bill Moyes, Chief Executive, Monitor and with representatives of Foundation Trusts on 3 July.

2. Care Quality Commission

The committee considered this matter.

4. Health Inequalities

Professor Mike Kelly, Director, Centre for Public Health Excellence, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, Professor Ken Judge, University of Bath, and Professor Sally Macintyre, Director MRC Social & Public Health Sciences Unit; Professor Edward Melhuish, Director, National Evaluation of Sure Start, Pauline Naylor, Programme Manager, Sure Start Barkerend Children's Centre, Frances Rehal, Director/Chief Executive Officer, Sure Start Millmead Children's Centre, and Richard Sharp, Newham New Deal for Communities, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 8 May 2008 at 9.00 am.]

Thursday 8 May 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Jim Dowd	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor
Dr Doug Naysmith	

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House on behalf of the residents of the Taunton constituency and others urging the Government to increase the rate of pay for NHS nurses, presented by Jeremy Browne MP on 28 April.

2. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence): National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence response to the Committee's First Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence response to the First Report from the Committee, 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.

3. Care Quality Commission

Baroness Young of Old Scone, nominee as Chair of the Care Quality Commission, gave oral evidence.

4. Appointment of the Chair of the Care Quality Commission

Draft Report, (*Appointment of the Chair of the Care Quality Commission*), 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, HC 545-I.

[Adjourned till Thursday 22 May 2008 at 9.00 am.]

Tuesday 13 May - Friday 16 May

The Chairman, Charlotte Atkins, Sandra Gidley, Dr Doug Naysmith, Robert Syms, and Dr Richard Taylor visited Norway in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Health Inequalities in accordance with the Committee's decision of 21 February 2008.

Thursday 22 May 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Jim Dowd	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions to the House:

On behalf of residents of the United Kingdom requesting the House of Commons to vote against the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, presented by Mr David Burrowes MP on 12 May; and

On behalf of those concerned about the potential changes to the time limit for abortion, presented by Mr Edward Leigh MP on 20 May 2008.

2. Care Services

Ordered, That Melanie Henwood be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its evidence session examining the responsibilities of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Services and for any future Social Care inquiries.

3. Health Inequalities

Professor Alan Maryon Davies, President, Faculty of Public Health, Professor Julian Le Grand, Chair, Health England, and Dr Susan Jebb, Foresight obesity project; Paul Jenkins, Chief Executive, Rethink, Saranjit Sihota, Head of Public Policy, Diabetes UK, and Deborah Arnott, Director, ASH, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 6 June 2008 at 9.00 am.]

Thursday 6 June 2008

Members present

Sandra Gidley	Mr Robert Syms
Mr Lee Scott	Dr Richard Taylor
Dr Howard Stoate	

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Dr Howard Stoate was called to the Chair for the meeting.

1. Petition

The Committee considered the following petition to the House:

From Alan Scard and others urging the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Health and other bodies to promote the utilisation of the Haslar site, Gosport, Hampshire, for the provision of healthcare services and treatment, presented by Peter Viggars MP on 12 May 2008.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Health Inequalities

Dr Hamish Meldrum, Chairman of Council, British Medical Association, Professor Martin Roland, Director, National Primary Care Research and Development Centre, and Dr Julian Tudor Hart, retired GP and Research Fellow, University of Wales; Professor James Nazroo, Professor of Sociology, University of Manchester, Peter Baker, Chief Executive, Men's Health Forum, and Margit Physant, Health Policy Adviser, Age Concern England, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 23 June 2008 at 4.30 pm.]

Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 June 2008

The Chairman, Dr Doug Naysmith, Dr Howard Stoate and Dr Richard Taylor MP visited Glasgow in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Health Inequalities in accordance with the Committee's decision of 30 April 2008.

Monday 23 June 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Sandra Gidley	Dr Doug Naysmith
Jim Dowd	Mr Lee Scott
Stephen Hesford	Dr Richard Taylor

1. NHS Next Stage Review

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Dental Services

Draft Report, [Dental Services], 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, HC 289-I.

[Adjourned till Thursday 26 June 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 26 June 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Foundation Trusts and Monitor

Ordered, That Professor Alan Maynard be appointed Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Foundation trusts and Monitor.

3. The Responsibilities of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Services

Ivan Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Services, and David Behan, Director General for Social Care, Department of Health, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 3 July 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 3 July 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Mr Peter Bone	Dr Howard Stoate
Sandra Gidley	Mr Robert Syms
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor
Mr Lee Scott	

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House:

From Mrs R Downey, Editor of Nursing Times magazine, and others of like disposition, concerning the funding given to SHAs which is used to provide nurse-training, presented by Dr Howard Stoate MP on 25 June 2008.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Foundation Trusts and Monitor

Mark Exworthy, Senior Lecturer in Public Management and Policy, School of Management, Royal Holloway, John Carrier, Chairman, Camden PCT, and Keith Palmer, Chairman, Barts and the London NHS Trust; Richard Gregory, Chairman, Chesterfield Royal NHS Foundation Trust, Stephen Firn, Chief Executive, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, and Dr William Moyes, Executive Chairman, Monitor, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 10 July 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 10 July 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Mr Peter Bone	Mr Lee Scott
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Jim Dowd	Dr Richard Taylor
Stephen Hesford	

1. Dental Services

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee undertake an inquiry into Patient Safety.

3. Public Expenditure Questionnaire

Resolved, That the Public Expenditure Questionnaire be sent to the Department of Health.

4. NHS Next Stage Review

Professor Steve Field, Chairman, Royal College of General Practitioners, Professor Nick Mays, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and David Pruce, Director of Policy and Communications, Royal

Pharmaceutical Society; Professor Adrian Newland, Vice-Chairman, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Niall Dickson, Chief Executive, King's Fund, and Nigel Edwards, Director of Policy, NHS Confederation, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 17 July 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 17 July 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Mr Peter Bone	Mr Lee Scott
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoaite
Stephen Hesford	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from those people against the current law on smoking tobacco, presented by Daniel Kawczynski MP on 8 July 2008.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. NHS Next Stage Review

Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham KBE, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health, David Nicholson CBE, NHS Chief Executive, and Dr Jonathan Sheffield, Medical Director, NHS South West, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 8 October 2008 at 10.00 am.]

Thursday 8 October 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Mr Robert Syms
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor
Dr Howard Stoaite	

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions to the House:

From the Bridge Court Action Group concerning the future funding of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation Resource centre in Dartford, presented by Dr Howard Stoaite MP on 22 July 2008.

From the people of West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly concerning hospital services at St Michael's and Penzance, Cornwall, presented by Andrew George MP.

2. Patient Safety

The Committee considered this matter.

Professor Vincent declared his interests as: Professor of Clinical Safety, Imperial College, London, a consultant to a number of organisations on patient safety and as Director of Safe Quality Care, a company which carries out research on patient safety.

Dr Ike Iheanacho declared no interests.

Mr Tony Giddings declared his interest as: Chairman of the Alliance for the Safety of Patients and as an occasional adviser to the healthcare Commission and the General Medical Council.

Ordered, That Professor Charles Vincent, Dr Ike Iheanacho and Mr Tony Giddings be appointed Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Patient Safety.

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Foundation trusts and Monitor

Draft Report, (*Foundation trusts and Monitor*), 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 Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 883-I.

[Adjourned till Thursday 16 October 2008 at 10.00 am.]

Thursday 16 October 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Mr Lee Scott
Mr Peter Bone	Dr Howard Stoaate
Jim Dowd	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions to the House:

From the Bridge Court Action Group concerning the future funding of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation Resource centre in Dartford, presented by Dr Howard Stoaate MP on 22 July 2008.

From the people of West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly concerning hospital services at St Michael's and Penzance, Cornwall, presented by Andrew George MP.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. NHS Next Stage Review

Dr Hamish Meldrum, Chairman, Council of the British Medical Association; Sir Ian Carruthers, Chief Executive, NHS South West, Margaret Edwards, Chief Executive, NHS Yorkshire and the Humber, and Mike Farrar, Chief Executive, NHS North West, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 23 October 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 23 October 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Stephen Hesford	Mr Robert Syms
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor
Mr Lee Scott	

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Meeting with European Commissioner

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee meet with the European Commissioner for Health, Androulla Vassiliou, on 15 January 2009, during her visit to Parliament.

3. Neuropathology services

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Chairman write to the appropriate Minister requesting an update on the procedures for commissioning post-mortem diagnostic pathology.

4. Health Inequalities

Professor Peter C Smith, Professor of Health Economics, and Professor Mark Sculpher, Professor of Health Economics, University of York, and Professor John Harris, Professor of Bioethics, University of Manchester; Christine Bidmead, Health Visitor, South London and the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, Professor Kaye Wellings, Professor of Sexual and Reproductive Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Professor Jane Sandall, Professor of Midwifery and Women's Health, King's College London, gave evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 30 October 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 30 October 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Stephen Hesford	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from those people concerned about the provision of anti-TNF medicines for Ankylosing Spondylitis, presented by Andrew George MP on 21 July 2008.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Patient Safety

Several memoranda relating to Patient Safety were ordered to be reported to the House for printing.

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS Medical Director, and Professor Dame Christine Beasley, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health; Martin Fletcher, Chief Executive, National Patient Safety Agency, gave evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5 November 2008 at 9.45 am.]

Wednesday 5 November 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Stephen Hesford
Mr Peter Bone	Dr Doug Naysmith
Jim Dowd	Mr Lee Scott
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoaite

1. Health Inequalities

Jamie Oliver, chef and broadcaster, gave evidence.

[Adjourned till tomorrow at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 6 November 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Howard Stoaite
Sandra Gidley	Mr Robert Syms
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Health Inequalities

Mike Eland, Director General of Enforcement and Compliance, HM Revenue and Customs, and Brodie Clark, Strategic Director, Border Control, UK Border Agency; Rob Ballantyne, Independent Planning and Health Consultant, and Neil Blackshaw, Head of NHS London Healthy Urban Development Unit, gave evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 November 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 13 November 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Mr Lee Scott
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Dr Doug Naysmith	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from residents of Islwyn and others about compensation for the sufferers of asbestosis and mesothelioma, presented by Mr Don Touhig MP on 10 November 2008.

2. Top-up Fees

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee undertake an inquiry into Top-up Fees in the NHS.

3. Public Expenditure Questionnaire (PEQ)

Several memoranda relating to the PEQ were ordered to be reported to the House for printing.

4. Health Inequalities

Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Young People, and Noreen Graham, Deputy Director for the Pupil Well-being Health and Safety Unit, Department for Children, Schools and Families; Gill Fine, Director of Consumer Health and Dietary Health, and Mrs Rosemary Hignett, Head of Nutrition Division, Food Standards Agency, gave evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19 November 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Wednesday 19 November 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Mr Peter Bone	Mr Lee Scott
Sandra Gidley	Dr Howard Stoate
Stephen Hesford	Dr Richard Taylor

1. Health Inequalities

Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Health, and Hugh Taylor CB, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, gave evidence.

[Adjourned till tomorrow at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 20 November 2008

Members present

Mr Kevin Barron, in the Chair

Charlotte Atkins	Dr Doug Naysmith
Jim Dowd	Dr Richard Taylor
Sandra Gidley	

1. Top-up Fees

The Committee considered this matter.

Professor Alan Maynard declared his interest as Chairman of Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Ordered, That Professor Alan Maynard be appointed Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Top-up Fees.

2. Patient Safety

Professor Richard Thomson, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Newcastle, and Professor Alastair Gray, Professor of Health Economics and Director of the Health Economics Research Centre, University of Oxford; Mr Martin Bromiley, Chairman of the Clinical Human Factors Group, Ms Josephine Ocloo, World Health Organization Patient Safety Champion, and Mrs Clare Bowen, gave evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 11 December 2008 at 9.30 am.]