



House of Commons
Liaison Committee

Formal Minutes

Session 2007–08

Proceedings of the Committee

Thursday 15 November 2007

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mr James Arbuthnot | Andrew Miller |
| Mr Alan Beith | Mr Barry Sheerman |
| Michael Connarty | Dr Phyllis Starkey |
| Sir Patrick Cormack | Keith Vaz |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Mr John Whittingdale |
| Frank Doran | Mr Phil Willis |
| Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody | Mr Tim Yeo |
| Dr Hywel Francis | Sir George Young |
| Peter Luff | |

1. Westminster Hall debates

The Committee *agreed* the reports suitable to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

International Development Committee, *DFID Assistance to Burmese Internally Displaced People and Refugees on the Thai-Burma Border*, HC 645, Session 2006–07;

Joint Committee on Human Rights, *The Treatment of Asylum Seekers*, HC 378, Session 2006–07; and

Treasury Committee, *Financial Inclusion*, HC 848 and HC 1717, Session 2005–06, and HC 53, Session 2006–07.

2. Declaration of Members' interests

The Committee *took note* of the recommendation by the Committee on Standards and Privileges on the importance of Members declaring pecuniary and relevant non-pecuniary interests in select committee proceedings.

3. Nomination to committees

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Draft bills in Session 2007–08

The Committee *agreed* to write to the Leader of the House to indicate which select committees had expressed an interest in scrutinising draft Bills in this Session.

5. Petitions

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Select committees: acceptance of services and travel

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Travel: Whips and the role of committee staff

The Committee *agreed* to invite the Government and Opposition Chief Whips to an informal meeting shortly to discuss how committees operate, and in particular nominations to committees, and pairing.

8. Committee annual reports

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Session with the Prime Minister

The Committee *took note* of the arrangements for the evidence session with the Prime Minister.

10. Any other business

The Committee *agreed* to reappoint Mr Barry Sheerman to the Liaison Sub-Committee.

[Adjourned till Thursday 27 November at 9.30 am.]

Thursday 29 November 2007

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot

Malcolm Bruce

Michael Connarty

Sir Patrick Cormack

Mr Andrew Dismore

Mr Frank Doran

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody

Dr Hywel Francis

Mike Gapes

Mr Michael Jack

Mr Edward Leigh

Rosemary McKenna

Mr Barry Sheerman

Keith Vaz

Mr Phil Willis

Sir George Young

1. Estimates Day debates

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had reported to the House the choice of Estimates for debate on the Estimates Day on 5 December:

Cabinet Office, in so far as it relates to standards in public life.

Department for Work and Pensions, in so far as it relates to benefits simplification.

2. Private informal meeting with Chief Whips

The Committee held a private informal meeting with Rt Hon. Geoffrey Hoon, Government Chief Whip, and Rt Hon. Patrick McLoughlin, Opposition Chief Whip, to discuss the arrangements for nomination of Members to committees and pairing.

3. Oral evidence with the Prime Minister

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 December at 8.45 am.]

Thursday 13 December 2007

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mr James Arbuthnot | Mr Michael Jack |
| Mr Kevin Barron | Mr Edward Leigh |
| Mr Alan Beith | Peter Luff |
| Sir Stuart Bell | Rosemary McKenna |
| Malcolm Bruce | Andrew Miller |
| Michael Connarty | Mr Mohammad Sarwar |
| Sir Patrick Cormack | Mr Barry Sheerman |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Dr Phyllis Starkey |
| Mr Frank Doran | Keith Vaz |
| Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody | Mr John Whittingdale |
| Dr Hywel Francis | Dr Tony Wright |
| Mike Gapes | Sir George Young |

1. Leak inquiry

The Committee considered a letter from the Chairman of the Home Affairs Committee regarding a leak of a draft report.

The Committee *agreed* that the leak seemed to constitute a substantial interference with the work of the Home Affairs Committee and that therefore a special report would be appropriate.

2. Parliamentary scrutiny of national policy statements

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Oral evidence with the Prime Minister

Oral evidence was heard from Rt Hon. Gordon Brown MP, the Prime Minister.

[Adjourned till Thursday 31 January 2008 at 9.30 am

Thursday 31 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mr James Arbuthnot | Mr Michael Jack |
| Mr Kevin Barron | Mr Greg Knight |
| Mr Alan Beith | Mr Edward Leigh |
| Malcolm Bruce | John McFall |
| Michael Connarty | Rosemary McKenna |
| Sir Patrick Cormack | Andrew Miller |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Mr Barry Sheerman |
| Mr Frank Doran | Keith Vaz |
| Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody | Mr John Whittingdale |
| Dr Hywel Francis | Mr Phil Willis |
| Mike Gapes | Sir George Young |

1. Westminster Hall debates

The Committee *agreed* the reports suitable to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Home Affairs Committee: *Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System*, HC 181, Session 2006–07;

International Development Committee: *Sanitation and Water*, HC 126, Session 2006–07;

Joint Committee on Human Rights: *The Human Rights of Older People in Healthcare*, HC 378, Session 2006–07; and

Quadripartite Committee (Committees on Strategic Export Controls): *Strategic Export Controls: 2007 Review*; HC 117.

The Committee *authorised* the Chairman to select reports for debates on 13 and 27 March.

2. Overseas travel

The Committee considered the Sub-Committee's proposals for allocation of the overseas travel budget.

Resolved, That the Sub-Committee's proposed amendment to the Guidelines for Overseas Travel be approved.

[In accordance with the Committee's decision, funding for overseas travel approved by the Chairman is given below in the annex.]

3. Lisbon Treaty procedure

The Committee considered this matter.

4. European scrutiny reform

The Committee considered a letter from the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons on the Government's proposals for European scrutiny reform.

5. Pre-appointment hearings by select committees

The Committee considered a letter from the Minister for the Cabinet Office on pre-appointment hearings by select committees.

Ordered, That a letter from the Minister for the Cabinet Office on pre-appointment hearings, dated 23 January 2008, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

6. Evidence sessions with the Prime Minister

The Committee considered this matter.

7. "Governing Well" report

The Committee considered this matter.

8. Scrutiny of the draft Legislative Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 28 February 2008 at 9.30 am

Annex: Allocations for Overseas Travel by Select Committees

The Chairman *approved* the following overseas visits:

Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Committee to Washington DC, Boston, Massachusetts and Raleigh, for its inquiry into Creating a Higher Value-added Economy, at a cost not exceeding £55,573;

Children, Schools and Families Committee to Paris, to visit the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss the recent Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) survey and related issues, at a cost not exceeding £9,280;

Children, Schools and Families Committee to Copenhagen, for its inquiry into Provision of Looked-after Children, at a cost not exceeding £11,854;

Culture, Media and Sport Committee to San Francisco and Los Angeles, for its inquiry into Harmful Content on the Internet and in Video Games, at a cost not exceeding £59,502;

Defence Committee to Pakistan and Afghanistan, for its inquiry into UK Operations in Afghanistan, at a cost not exceeding £62,186;

Defence Committee to Iraq and the Persian Gulf, for its ongoing programme of scrutiny of operational theatres and part of the inquiry into the Iran Hostages Incident, at a cost not exceeding £44,949;

European Scrutiny Committee to Brussels, for a meeting with UK Members of the European Parliament, at a cost not exceeding £13,001;

European Scrutiny Committee to Paris, for its pre-Presidency visit, at a cost not exceeding £19,478;

Foreign Affairs Committee to Korea and Japan, for its inquiry into Global Security, at a cost not exceeding £71,556;

Foreign Affairs Committee to Brussels, Paris and Berlin, for its inquiry into Developments in the European Union, at a cost not exceeding £29,311;

Health Committee to New Zealand, for its inquiry into Health Inequalities, at a cost not exceeding £59,673;

Home Affairs Committee to Ukraine, Russia and Lithuania, for its inquiry into Human Trafficking, at a cost not exceeding £31,026;

Home Affairs Committee to Mumbai, New Delhi, and Dhaka, for its inquiry into Managing Migration: the New Points-based System, at a cost not exceeding £68,015;

Innovation, Universities and Skills Committee to Germany, for its inquiries into Renewable Electricity-generation Technologies and Bio-security in UK Research Laboratories, at a cost not exceeding £14,510;

Innovation, Universities and Skills Committee to Beijing and Tokyo, for its inquiry into Engineering, at a cost not exceeding £71,700;

International Development Committee to Tunis, for its inquiry into DFID-funding through Development Banks: The African Development Bank, at a cost not exceeding £16,662;

International Development Committee to Berlin and Rome, for its inquiry into Co-ordination for Aid Effectiveness, at a cost not exceeding £22,831;

International Development Committee to Stockholm and Copenhagen, for its inquiry into Co-ordination for Aid Effectiveness, at a cost not exceeding £ 19,611;

International Development Committee to China, for its inquiry into DFID and China, at a cost not exceeding £58,539;

Joint Committee on Human Rights to Paris, Bordeaux and Madrid, for its inquiry into Policing and Protest, at a cost not exceeding £16,658;

Justice Committee to Vancouver, Portland and Seattle, for its inquiry into Justice Reinvestment, at a cost not exceeding £72,528;

Public Accounts Committee to Rome, for its consideration of methods of financial management and control, at a cost not exceeding £14,164;

Welsh Affairs Committee to Spain, for its inquiry into Globalisation and its impact on Wales, at a cost not exceeding £16,237;

Welsh Affairs Committee to Dublin, for its inquiry into Globalisation and its impact on Wales, at a cost not exceeding £6,975;

Work and Pensions Committee to Germany, for its inquiry into the Health and Safety Executive and the Health and Safety Commission, at a cost not exceeding £17,816; and

Work and Pensions Committee to Australia, for its inquiry into Disability and Carers: Achieving Equality, at a cost not exceeding £63,683.

Thursday 28 February 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mr James Arbuthnot | Mr Edward Leigh |
| Mr Alan Beith | Peter Luff |
| Michael Connarty | John McFall |
| Sir Patrick Cormack | Andrew Miller |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Mr Barry Sheerman |
| Dr Hywel Francis | Dr Phyllis Starkey |
| Mike Gapes | Mr John Whittingdale |
| Mr Michael Jack | Sir George Young |

1. Debates

a) Estimates Day

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had reported to the House the choice of Estimates for debate on the Estimates Day on Monday 10 March:

HM Treasury, in so far as it relates to Northern Rock and banking reform.

Department for Transport, in so far as it relates to London Underground and the public-private partnership agreements.

b) Westminster Hall

The Committee *agreed* the reports suitable to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Culture, Media and Sport Committee, *Ticket Touting*, HC 202, Session 2007–08;

Home Affairs Committee, *Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System*, HC 553, Session 2006–07;

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Global Security: Russia*, HC 51, Session 2007–08;

Innovation, Universities and Skills Committee (produced by the Science and Technology Committee), *The Funding of Science and Discovery Centres*, HC 903, Session 2006–07; and

International Development Committee, *Sanitation and Water*, HC 126, Session 2006–07.

The Committee *authorised* the Chairman to select reports for debates on 3 and 24 April.

2. Pre-appointment hearings by select committees

The draft Report [*Pre-appointment hearings by select committees*] was *amended and agreed to*; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report were published in the First Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007–08, HC 384, p. 29.

3. Evidence sessions with the Prime Minister

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Prime Minister regarding future evidence sessions.

4. Parliament and Government finance

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Committees and petitions

The Committee considered this matter.

6. “Better Government Initiative”

The Committee considered this matter.

7. UK Statistics Authority

The Committee considered this matter.

8. Parliamentary commissions of inquiry

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Pre-legislative scrutiny

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Leader of the House regarding pre-legislative scrutiny by departmental select committees.

[Adjourned till Thursday 27 March 2008 at 9.30 am

Thursday 27 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mr Alan Beith | Peter Luff |
| Michael Connarty | John McFall |
| Sir Patrick Cormack | Mr Barry Sheerman |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Dr Phyllis Starkey |
| Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody | Keith Vaz |
| Mike Gapes | Mr Phil Willis |
| Mr Michael Jack | Mr John Whittingdale |
| Mr Edward Leigh | Sir George Young |

1. Westminster Hall debates

The Committee *agreed* the reports suitable to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Home Affairs Committee, *Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System*, HC 553, Session 2006–07;

Health Committee, *National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence*, HC 27, Session 2007–08;

Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee (produced by the Science and Technology Committee), *The Funding of Science and Discovery Centres*, HC 903, Session 2006–07; and

International Development Committee, *Sanitation and Water*, HC 126, Session 2006–07.

The Committee *authorised* the Chairman to select reports for debates on 3 and 24 April.

2. Parliament and government finance: recreating financial scrutiny

The draft Report [*Parliament and Government Finance: Recreating Financial Scrutiny*] was *agreed to*; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report were published in the Second Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007–08, HC 426, p.38.

3. The work of committees in 2007

The draft Report [*The work of Committees in 2007*] was *agreed to*; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report were published in the Third Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007–08, HC 427, p.55.

Ordered, That the Chairman invite the Leader of the House to an informal meeting to discuss the handling of draft bills and other matters relating to committees.

Ordered, That the Chairman invite the Government and Opposition Chief Whips to a further informal meeting to discuss pairing arrangements and committee travel.

4. Committees on Arms Export Controls: proposal to change Standing Orders

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Witness feedback

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Review of select committee resources

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Proposal for a Budget select committee

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 8 May 2008 at 9.30 am

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 31 January 2008, the Chairman approved the following overseas visits:

Health Committee to Finland and Norway, for its inquiry into Health Inequalities, at a cost not exceeding £27,001; and

Regulatory Reform Committee to Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, for its inquiry into Getting results: the Better Regulation Executive and the impact of the regulatory reform agenda, at a cost not exceeding £28,284.

Thursday 8 May 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| Mr James Arbuthnot | Rosemary McKenna |
| Malcolm Bruce | Andrew Miller |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Mr Barry Sheerman |
| Dr Hywel Francis | Dr Phyllis Starkey |
| Mike Gapes | Keith Vaz |
| Mr Michael Jack | Mr John Whittingdale |
| Peter Luff | Mr Phil Willis |
| John McFall | |

1. Private informal meeting with the Chief Whips

The Committee held a private informal meeting with Rt Hon Geoffrey Hoon, Government Chief Whip, and Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin, Opposition Chief Whip, to discuss the arrangements for pairing and other matters relating to committees.

2. Westminster Hall debates

The Committee *agreed* the reports suitable to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Defence Committee, *Medical care for the Armed Forces*, HC 327, Session 2007–08;

Environmental Audit Committee, *Are biofuels sustainable?*, HC 76, Session 2007–08;

Home Affairs Committee, *Young Black People and the Criminal Justice System*, HC 553, Session 2006–07;

International Development Committee, *Reconstructing Afghanistan*, HC 65, Session 2007–08; and

Scottish Affairs Committee, *Poverty in Scotland*, HC 128, Session 2007–08.

The Committee *authorised* the Chairman to select reports for debates on 5 and 19 June.

3. Post-legislative scrutiny

The Committee considered this matter.

4. National planning statements

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Travel

The Committee considered this matter.

6. National security strategy

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Relations with government and Parliament

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 May 2008 at 4.45 pm

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 31 January 2008, the Chairman approved the following overseas visits:

Scottish Affairs Committee to Killarney and Dublin, for its inquiry into Credit Unions in Scotland, at a cost not exceeding £10,421; and

Treasury Committee to Isle of Man and Jersey, for its inquiry into Offshore Financial Centres, at a cost not exceeding £11,942.

Wednesday 21 May 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Mr Kevin Barron | John McFall |
| Malcolm Bruce | Andrew Miller |
| Michael Connarty | Mr Barry Sheerman |
| Sir Patrick Cormack | Dr Phyllis Starkey |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Keith Vaz |
| Mrs Louise Ellman | Dr Tony Wright |

1. Government response to the Committee's report on pre-appointment hearings by select committees

The draft Report [*Pre-appointment hearings by select committees: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2007–08*] was agreed to and was published as the First Special Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007–08, HC 594.

2. Government response to the Committee's report on the work of committees in 2007

The draft Report [*The work of committees in 2007: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2007–08*] was agreed to and was published as the Second Special Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007–08, HC 595.

3. Private informal meeting with the Leader of the House of Commons and the Minister for the Cabinet Office

The Committee held a private informal meeting with Rt Hon. Harriet Harman QC MP, Leader of the House of Commons and Chairman of the Modernisation Committee, and Rt Hon. Ed Miliband MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

[Adjourned till Thursday 12 June 2008 at 9.30 am

Thursday 12 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Malcolm Bruce | Andrew Miller |
| Michael Connarty | Dr Phyllis Starkey |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Keith Vaz |
| Mrs Louise Ellman | Mr John Whittingdale |
| Mike Gapes | Mr Phil Willis |
| Mr Michael Jack | Mr Tim Yeo |
| John McFall | |

1. Evidence from the Prime Minister

The Committee *took note* of the arrangements for the evidence session with the Prime Minister.

2. The Government's draft Legislative Programme for 2008–09

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Pre-legislative scrutiny

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Leader of the House to ask her to clarify the assurances she gave to the Committee on pre-legislative scrutiny at the meeting on 21 May.

4. Pre-appointment hearings

The Committee considered this matter and *confirmed* the guidelines, as amended, for use by individual committees.

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, confirming the Liaison Committee's support for the inclusion of the Chairman of the BBC on the list of appointments eligible for pre-appointment hearings.

5. Post-legislative scrutiny

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Leader of the House giving the Committee's substantive response to the Government's proposals for post-legislative scrutiny.

6. National planning statements

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Parliamentary commissions of inquiry

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 3 July 2008 at 9.40 am

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 31 January 2008, the Chairman approved the following overseas visits:

Children, Schools and Families Committee to Toronto and Ottawa, for its inquiries into the national curriculum and teacher training, at a cost not exceeding £52,702;

Communities and Local Government Committee to Copenhagen and Stockholm, for its inquiry into the balance of power between central and local government, at a cost not exceeding £27,810;

Defence Committee to Australia and Fiji, for its inquiries into Afghanistan; Iraq; the future of NATO; national security issues; interoperability; recruitment and retention; and the conduct of defence reviews, at a cost not exceeding £68,178;

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee to Rome, for its inquiry into the contribution that Defra can make to resolving world food security issues, at a cost not exceeding £17,672;

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee to Brazil, for its inquiry into the contribution that Defra can make to resolving world food security issues, at a cost not exceeding £62,794;

European Scrutiny Committee to Brussels, for meetings with UKREP and the European Institutions, at a cost not exceeding £15,958; or

European Scrutiny Committee to The Hague, for discussions with Europol and Eurojust, at a cost not exceeding £15,958;

European Scrutiny Committee to Czech Republic, for a pre-Presidency visit, at a cost not exceeding £28,986;

Foreign Affairs Committee to New York and The British Indian Ocean Territory, for its inquiries into Global Security and the Overseas Territories, at a cost not exceeding £61,736;

Joint Committee on Human Rights to Vienna, to meet the Director and senior staff of the EU Agency of Fundamental Rights, at a cost not exceeding £7,291;

Justice Committee to Helsinki and Berlin, for its inquiry into justice reinvestment, at a cost not exceeding £33,982;

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee to Dublin, for its inquiry into relations between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, at a cost not exceeding £7,874;

Public Administration Select Committee to the Netherlands, for its inquiry into good government, at a cost not exceeding £14,778;

Transport Committee to Calais, Amsterdam and Hanover, for its inquiries into taxes and charges on road users and the Vehicle & Operator Services Agency's Enforcement Activities, at a cost not exceeding £24,577;

Treasury Committee to Japan and Singapore, for its inquiry into financial stability and transparency, at a cost not exceeding £68,954; and

Work and Pensions Committee to the Netherlands, for its inquiry into contract commissioning, at a cost not exceeding £11,094.

Thursday 3 July 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot
Sir Alan Beith
Malcolm Bruce
Michael Connarty
Sir Patrick Cormack
Mrs Louise Ellman
Mike Gapes
Mr Edward Leigh
Peter Luff
John McFall

Rosemary McKenna
Mr Terry Rooney
Mr Barry Sheerman
Dr Phyllis Starkey
Keith Vaz
Mr John Whittingdale
Mr Phil Willis
Dr Tony Wright
Mr Tim Yeo

1. Estimates Day

Ordered, That the Chairman do report to the House that the Committee had directed him to make the following recommendation for the allocation of time for the consideration of Estimates (being the third allotted day in the present Session of Parliament);

That a day not later than 5th August be allotted for the consideration of the following Estimates for the financial year 2008–09:

Department for Transport, in so far as it relates to ticketing and concessionary travel on public transport.

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, in so far as it relates to Science Budget allocations.

2. Oral evidence with the Prime Minister

Oral evidence was heard from Rt Hon. Gordon Brown MP, the Prime Minister.

[Adjourned till Thursday 10 July 2008 at 9.30 am

Thursday 10 July 2008

Members present:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Malcolm Bruce | Peter Luff |
| Sir Patrick Cormack | John McFall |
| Mr Andrew Dismore | Mr Barry Sheerman |
| Mrs Louise Ellman | Dr Phyllis Starkey |
| Mike Gapes | Mr John Whittingdale |
| Mr Greg Knight | Sir George Young |

In the absence of the Chairman, Sir George Young was called to the Chair.

1. Westminster Hall debates

The Committee *agreed* the reports suitable to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Business and Enterprise Committee, *Jobs for the Girls: Two Years On*, HC 291, Session 2007–08;

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Global Security: Iran*, HC 142, Session 2007–08;

Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee, *Investigating the Oceans*, HC 470, Session 2006–07;

Joint Committee on Human Rights, *A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities*, HC 73/HL 40, Session 2007–08; and

Public Administration Select Committee, *Politics and Administration: Ministers and Civil Servants*, HC 122, Session 2006–07.

The Committee *authorised* the Chairman to select reports for debates on 16 and 30 October.

2. Review of core tasks

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Review of select committee resources

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Regional accountability: publication of the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons' Third Report, HC 282

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Intelligence and Security Committee

Ordered, That the acting Chairman write to the Leader of the House regarding the Intelligence and Security Committee.

[Adjourned till Thursday 16 October 2008 at 9.30 am

Thursday 16 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Sir Alan Beith

Malcolm Bruce

Sir Patrick Cormack

Mr Andrew Dismore

Mrs Louise Ellman

Dr Hywel Francis

Mike Gapes

Mr Edward Leigh

John McFall

Andrew Miller

Dr Phyllis Starkey

Keith Vaz

Mr Phil Willis

Sir George Young

1. Westminster Hall debates

The Committee *agreed* the reports suitable to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Business and Enterprise Committee, *Energy prices, fuel poverty, and Ofgem*, HC 293, Session 2007–08;

Communities and Local Government Committee, *The Supply of Rented Housing*, HC 457, Session 2007–08;

Culture, Media and Sport Committee, *Harmful content on the Internet and in video games*, HC 353, Session 2007–08;

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Global Security: Iran*, HC 142, Session 2007–08;

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Human Rights Annual Report 2007*, HC 533, Session 2007–08;

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Overseas Territories*, HC 147-I, Session 2007–08;

Health Committee, *Dental Services*, HC 289, Session 2007–08;

Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee, *Investigating the Oceans*, HC 470, Session 2006–07;

International Development Committee, *The World Food Programme and Global Food Security*, HC 493, Session 2007–08;

Joint Committee on Human Rights, *A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities*, HL 40-I/HC 73-I, Session 2007–08; and

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, *Policing and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland: the Cost of Policing the Past*, HC 333, Session 2007–08.

2. Parliament and government finance: recreating financial scrutiny

The draft Report [*Parliament and Government Finance: Recreating Financial Scrutiny: Government and National Audit Office Responses to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2007–08*] was *agreed to* and was published as the Third Special Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007–08, HC 1108.

3. HM Treasury's Alignment Project

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Planning Bill

The draft Report [*Planning Bill: Parliamentary Scrutiny of National Policy Statements*] was *agreed to* and was published as the Fourth Special Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007–08, HC 1109.

5. Standing Orders: modernisation

The draft Report [*Modernisation of language in standing orders relating to select committees*] was *agreed to* and was published as the Fifth Special Report of the Liaison Committee, Session 2007–08, HC 1110.

6. Interests of specialist advisers

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Regional committees

The Committee considered this matter.

8. Research study into impact of pre-appointment hearings

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Overseas travel by select committees

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 20 November at 9.30am

Thursday 20 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot
Sir Alan Beith
Sir Patrick Cormack
Mr Andrew Dismore
Mike Gapes

Mr Michael Jack
Mr Barry Sheerman
Dr Phyllis Starkey
Mr Phil Willis
Sir George Young

1. Westminster Hall debates

The Committee *agreed* the reports suitable to be recommended for debate in Westminster Hall as follows:

Business and Enterprise Committee, *Energy prices, fuel poverty and Ofgem*, HC 293, Session 2007–08;

Environmental Audit Committee, *Personal Carbon Trading*, HC 565, Session 2007–08;

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Global Security: Iran*, HC 142, Session 2007–08;

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Human Rights Annual Report 2007*, HC 533, Session 2007–08;

Foreign Affairs Committee, *Overseas Territories*, HC 147-I, Session 2007–08;

Health Committee, *Dental Services*, HC 289, Session 2007–08;

Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee, *Investigating the Oceans*, HC 470, Session 2006–07;

International Development Committee, *The World Food Programme and Global Food Security*, HC 493, Session 2007–08;

Joint Committee on Human Rights, *A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities*, HL 40-I/HC 73-I, Session 2007–08;

Justice Committee, *Towards Effective Sentencing*, HC 184, Session 2007–08; and

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, *Policing and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland: the Cost of Policing the Past*, HC 333, Session 2007–08.

Resolved, That the Chairman be given the authority to allocate one or two committee reports for the Estimates Day debates on Tuesday 16 December.

2. National security strategy: proposed joint committee

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Prime Minister on proposals for setting up a new joint committee to scrutinise the Government's national security strategy.

3. Written parliamentary questions

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Chairman of the Procedure Committee on his committee's proposals for assessing responses to written parliamentary questions.

4. Travel to European institutions

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Pre-legislative Scrutiny: The Export Control Orders 2009

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Leader of the House regarding the pre-legislative scrutiny by the Committees on Arms Export Controls of the 2009 export control orders.

[Adjourned till Thursday 11 December at 9.30am

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 31 January 2008, the Chairman approved the following overseas visits:

Culture, Media and Sport Committee to Barcelona, to meet the organisers of the 1992 Olympic Games to discuss the legacy, at a cost not exceeding £20,199;

Defence Committee to Russia, Latvia and Georgia, for its inquiry into Defence relations with Russia, at a cost not exceeding £56,380;

Environmental Audit Committee to Cameroon, for its inquiry into Forests: the future role of carbon markets in their protection and the timber trade, at a cost not exceeding £63,648;

Foreign Affairs Committee to Prague, Warsaw, Geneva and Vienna, for its inquiry into Global Security: non-proliferation, at a cost not exceeding £41,829; and

International Development Committee to Kenya and Tanzania, for its inquiry into Sustainable development, including aviation, tourism and forestry, at a cost not exceeding £69,195.

Proceedings of the Sub-Committee

Tuesday 27 November 2007

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Alan Beith

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody

Mr Michael Jack

Dr Tony Wright

Sir George Young

1. Oral evidence from the Prime Minister

The Sub-Committee *discussed* themes for the forthcoming evidence session with the Prime Minister.

[Adjourned to a place and time to be fixed by the Chairman.]

Wednesday 23 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Alan Beith

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody

Mr Michael Jack

John McFall

Dr Tony Wright

Sir George Young

1. Allocation methods for the travel budget

The Sub-Committee *discussed* this matter.

[Adjourned to a place and time to be fixed by the Chairman.]

Tuesday 19 February 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody
Mr Michael Jack
John McFall

Mr Barry Sheerman
Sir George Young

1. Review of evidence sessions with the Prime Minister

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned to a place and time to be fixed by the Chairman.]

Tuesday 10 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Alan Williams, in the Chair

Mr Michael Jack
John McFall

Dr Tony Wright
Sir George Young

1. Oral evidence from the Prime Minister

The Sub-Committee *discussed* themes for the forthcoming evidence session with the Prime Minister.

[Adjourned to a place and time to be fixed by the Chairman.]