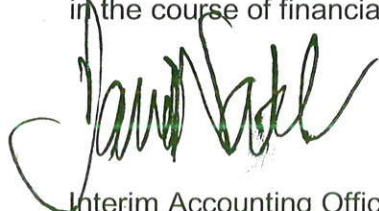


**HOUSE OF COMMONS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:
FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES
Memorandum by the Interim Accounting Officer**

1. Jesse Norman and other Members have tabled a motion which would establish a select committee on House of Commons Governance. This motion is due to be debated on Wednesday 10 September. Under its terms the committee would be required to complete its work by 12 January.
2. Standing Order No. 22C requires me, as Accounting Officer, to produce a memorandum on the financial consequences of any motion to be considered by the House if the motion would have a direct consequence of additional expenditure under the House of Commons: Administration Estimate estimated to be £50,000 or more.
3. There are a number of variables which affect the costs arising from this motion principally relating to the activity levels and decisions of the Committee once established concerning, for example, the number of their evidence sessions, and the possible exercise of their powers to appoint specialist advisers and to travel.
4. Under the proposed motion the committee would be in existence for just over four months. The committee secretariat will be drawn from existing House staff, some of whom may need to retain some of their existing responsibilities which cannot sensibly be transferred. In other cases, posts will be wholly or partially backfilled. It is expected to be of a similar size to a departmental select committee but headed by a Principal Clerk. On that basis I estimate the total notional staff costs to be around £130,000, with marginal attributable costs substantially less.
5. The committee may incur additional costs under the following headings:
 - Specialist advisers
 - Commissioned research
 - Travel and informal meetings
 - Transcription
 - Online publication and printing

These costs are also dependent on decisions to be taken by the committee. Based on past experience I estimate that they might in total amount to around £20,000.

6. All of these costs would be resource rather than capital expenditure, and all would fall in the course of financial year 2014-15.



Interim Accounting Officer
9 September 2014