

**APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND EQUALITIES: FINANCIAL  
CONSEQUENCES**

*Memorandum by the Accounting Officer*

1. The Government has tabled a motion to make a new Standing Order to establish a select committee on Women and Equalities for the duration of the current Parliament.

2. The motion reads as follows:

That, with effect until the end of the current Parliament, Standing Order No 152 be amended by the insertion of the following line at the appropriate point in the table in paragraph (2):

“Women and Equalities	Government Equalities Office	11”
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3. 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.
4. On the assumption that the Committee will be as active as a typical select committee related to a Government department, it would require a staff of about five, costing around £260,000 a year. Initially it is envisaged that staff would be provided by transferring staff from existing select committees and other offices in the House with the aim of replacing them by external recruitment if possible. It is possible that specialist staff would be seconded from outside the House of Commons Service, although this is unlikely significantly to affect the overall costs. I have not included the costs of media support, on the assumption that these costs will be met from existing media teams within either House.
5. On the same assumption, costs of travel, specialist advisers, publications etc. would amount to about £50,000 a year.
6. The total extra annual recurring cost of establishing the Committee would therefore be of the order of £310,000 a year for the duration of the current Parliament. Any net additional costs in 2015-16 will be met from contingency. Ongoing costs thereafter will have to be factored in to baseline budgets from 2016-17 onwards.

**David Natzler**

Clerk of the House and Accounting Officer

1 June 2015