Proceedings of the Committee

Wednesday 14 July 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair⁴

Nick Boles
Mr Christopher Chope
Sheila Gilmore
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt

Catherine McKinnell
Sir Peter Soulsby
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Declaration of interests

Members declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. Confidentiality of select committee proceedings

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee takes note of the rules relating to the confidentiality of select committee proceedings.

3. Committee working methods

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the public be admitted during the examination of witnesses unless the Committee orders otherwise.

Resolved, That witnesses who submit written evidence to the Committee are authorised to publish it on their own account in accordance with Standing Order No. 135, subject always to the discretion of the Chair or where the Committee orders otherwise.

4. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee meet tomorrow to take oral evidence from the Deputy Prime Minister on the coalition government’s programme of political and constitutional reform.

⁴ Mr Graham Allen was elected as the Chair of the Committee on 9 June 2010, in accordance with Standing Order No. 122B (see House of Commons Votes and Proceedings, 10 June 2010).
Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the government bills expected before the summer recess which will provide for a referendum on the alternative vote, for fewer and more equally-sized constituencies, and for fixed-term parliaments.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire at a future date into lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election.

Ordered, That the Chair and clerk identify a preferred option for commissioning research on mapping the path to codifying – or not codifying – the UK’s constitution, for future consideration by the Committee.

[Adjourned till tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.]
1. Declaration of interests

Mrs Eleanor Laing declared her interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. Voting and parliamentary reform

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That at its next meeting the Committee take oral evidence from the Electoral Reform Society, Unlock Democracy and Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky.

3. Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Deputy Prime Minister, and Ms Rowena Collins-Rice, Mr Mark Sweeney and Ms Judith Simpson, Cabinet Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 22 July at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 22 July 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Nick Boles        Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore    Sir Peter Soulsby
Simon Hart        Mr Andrew Turner
Tristram Hunt     Stephen Williams

1. Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Letter from the Committee Chair to the Deputy Prime Minister, 21 July 2010.

2. Voting and parliamentary reform

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That at its next meeting the Committee take oral evidence from Professor Ron Johnston and Mr Robin Gray, and from Professor Patrick Dunleavy and Professor Justin Fisher.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Voting and parliamentary reform be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

VPR 01 – Mr Richard Pond

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill inquiry be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

PVSCB 10 – Rt Hon Denis MacShane MP
PVSCB 11 – Dr Graeme Orr and Prof Keith Ewing
PVSCB 12– Prof Michael Thrasher
PVSCB 13 – Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

Dr Martin Steven, Electoral Reform Society, Peter Facey, Unlock Democracy and Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 July at 9.45 a.m.]
Tuesday 27 July 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Nick Boles
Mr Christopher Chope
Sheila Gilmore
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt

Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sir Peter Soulsby
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Voting and parliamentary reform

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill: Report for Second Reading) 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 First Report from the Committee, HC 422.

Resolved, That at its next meeting the Committee take oral evidence on the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill from Malcolm Jack, Clerk of the House of Commons, and from other witnesses to be chosen at the Chair’s discretion.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill inquiry be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

PVSCB 14 – Dr Matt Qvortrup
PVSCB 15 – Prof Patrick Dunleavy
PVSCB 16 – Ms Nicola Prigg

Professor Ron Johnson and Mr Robin Gray, and Professor Patrick Dunleavy and Professor Justin Fisher, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 7 September at 9.45 a.m.]
Tuesday 7 September 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Nick Boles
Mr Christopher Chope
Sheila Gilmore
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt

Mrs Eleanor Laing
Catherine McKinnell
Sir Peter Soulsby
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Process of government formation after the 2010 general election

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That, pursuant to its decision of 14 July, the Committee shall now invite written submissions of evidence for this inquiry.

2. Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

PVSCB 01 Lewis Baston, Democratic Audit
PVSCB 02 David Allen
PVSCB 03 Keep Cornwall Whole
PVSCB 04 Secretaries to the Boundary Commissions
PVSCB 05 Professor Robert Hazell and Mark Chalmers, Constitution Unit, UCL
PVSCB 06 Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg, Director, Democratic Audit
PVSCB 07 Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform
PVSCB 08 New Economics Foundation
PVSCB 16 Lord Lipsey
PVSCB 17 Hugh Bayley MP
PVSCB 18 Chris Ruane MP, Clive Betts MP, Andy Love MP and Russell Brown MP
PVSCB 19 Rt Hon Peter Hain MP
PVSCB 20 Paul Howley
PVSCB 21 Rt Hon Paul Murphy MP
PVSCB 22 Electoral Registration Office and Returning Officer, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
PVSCB 23 David A. G. Nowell
PVSCB 24 Fawcett Society
PVSCB 25 Ipsos MORI
PVSCB 32 Richard Burden MP
3. Voting and parliamentary reform

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Voting and parliamentary reform be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

VPR 03 Brendan Donnelly, Director of the Federal Trust for Education and Research
VPR 04 The Electoral Commission
VPR 05 Hansard Society
VPR 06 Association of Electoral Administrators
VPR 07 Scottish Youth Parliament
VPR 08 Dr Meg Russell, Deputy Director, Constitution Unit, University College London

4. Fixed-term Parliaments Bill

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Fixed-Term Parliaments Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

FTPB 01 - Dr Malcolm Jack, Clerk of the House of Commons
FTPB 02 - Professor Dawn Oliver, University College London
FTPB 03 - Professor Robert Hazell, The Constitution Unit, University College London
FTPB 04 - Professor Robert Blackburn, Professor of Constitutional Law, King’s College London
FTPB 05 - Professor Anthony Bradley

Dr Malcolm Jack, Clerk of the House of Commons, and Professor Robert Blackburn, Professor of Constitutional Law, King’s College London, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 9 September at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 9 September 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Sheila Gilmore
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt

Mrs Eleanor Laing
Catherine McKinnell
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Fixed-term Parliaments Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Fixed-term Parliaments Bill) 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 Second Report from the Committee, HC 436.

2. Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

PVSCB 27 AEA Southern Branch

Bob Farrance, Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England, Liz Benson, Secretary to the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland, Hugh Buchanan, Secretary to the Boundary Commission for Scotland, and Edward Lewis, Secretary to the Boundary Commission for Wales; and Dr Roger Mortimore, Head of Political Research, Ipsos Mori, and Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg, Director, Democratic Audit, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 14 September at 9.45 a.m.]
Tuesday 14 September 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Nick Boles  
Mr Christopher Chope  
Sheila Gilmore  
Simon Hart  

Mrs Eleanor Laing  
Catherine McKinnell  
Sir Peter Soulsby  
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from residents of the Isle of Wight and others, concerning constituency boundaries (Isle of Wight), presented on 6 September.

2. Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

The following written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for placing in the Library and Parliamentary Archives:

PVSCB 28 - P S Manning

Jenny Watson, Chair, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, Andrew Scallan, Director of Electoral Administration, and Lisa Klein, Director of Party and Election Finance, Electoral Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 16 September at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 16 September 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Nick Boles  Catherine McKinnell
Sheila Gilmore  Sir Peter Soulsby
Simon Hart  Mr Andrew Turner
Mrs Eleanor Laing

1. Amendments to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill and Fixed-term Parliaments Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Mapping the path to codifying - or not codifying - the UK’s constitution

Pursuant to the Order of 14 July, the Committee considered a preferred option for commissioning research on mapping the path to codifying – or not codifying – the UK’s constitution.

Resolved, That the Committee agrees to accept the offer of research from the Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies, King’s College London, on the terms proposed by the Chair.

3. Voting and Parliamentary Reform

Mr Mark Harper MP, Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, Cabinet Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 7 October at 9.45 a.m.]
1. **Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bills*) 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 Third Report from the Committee, HC 437.*

2. **Amendments to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

Resolved, That Members of the Committee table and add their names to amendments to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, as considered in the Committee.

[Adjourned till Thursday 14 October at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 14 October 2010

Members present

Mr Christopher Chope  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore       Sir Peter Soulsby
Simon Hart           Mr Andrew Turner
Tristram Hunt        Stephen Williams

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

1. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chair and Clerk of the Committee seek to organise a joint seminar for the Committee with the Communities and Local Government Committee on the prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government.

2. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to lessons from the process of government formation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   LPGF 01        Graham Clowes
   LPGF 02        Professor Dawn Oliver, University College London
   LPGF 03        Professor Robert Blackburn, King’s College London

Rt Hon David Laws MP, and Rt Hon Lord Adonis, a member of the House of Lords, Director, Institute for Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 21 October at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 21 October 2010

Members present

Mr Christopher Chope          Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore                Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart                    Stephen Williams
Tristram Hunt

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to lessons from the process of government formation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

LPGF 04       The Hansard Society
LPGF 05       David Laws MP
LPGF 06       The Institute for Government

Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP, Minister of State, Cabinet Office gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 28 October at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 28 October 2010

Members present

Mr Christopher Chope  Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Simon Hart  Mr Andrew Turner

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

1. House of Lords Reform

Ordered, That the Chair of the Committee write to the Leader of the House of Commons, proposing that the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee, or a Sub-Committee thereof, should comprise the Commons part of any Joint Committee established to scrutinise the forthcoming draft Bill on House of Lords Reform.

2. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government.

3. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the Chair of the Committee write to the Prime Minister regarding publication of the Cabinet Manual.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to lessons from the process of government formation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

LPGF 07 Professor Robert Hazell and Dr Ben Yong

Professor Robert Hazell, Constitution Unit, University College London, Dr Catherine Haddon, Institute for Government, and Dr Ruth Fox, Hansard Society, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 4 November at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 4 November 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Sheila Gilmore
Simon Hart

Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Mrs Eleanor Laing

Resolved, That the Committee thanks Mrs Eleanor Laing for her conduct in chairing the Committee, and in speaking on the Committee’s behalf in the House, in the unavoidable absence of the Chair. (Mr Graham Allen.)

3. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to lessons from the process of government formation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

LPGF 08 Sir Gus O’Donnell

Sir Gus O’Donnell KCB, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 11 November at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 11 November 2010

Members present

Mr Christopher Chope  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Simon Hart  Mr Andrew Turner
Mr Fabian Hamilton  Andrew Griffiths
Tristram Hunt  Sir Peter Soulsby

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

1. Declaration of interests

Mr Fabian Hamilton and Andrew Griffiths declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992. (see Appendix).

2. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to lessons from the process of government formation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

LPGF 09  Professor Matthew Flinders, University of Sheffield and Dr Felicity Matthews, University of York
LPGF 10  Baroness D’Souza, Crossbench Convenor, House of Lords

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Amendments to Fixed Term Parliaments Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That Members of the Committee table and add their names to amendments to the Fixed-term Parliaments Bill.

Resolved, That it is in keeping with the Committee’s recommendations for Members of the Committee to speak and vote against the above amendments, the purpose of tabling being to allow for debate on matters which the Committee has agreed deserve to be considered by the House.—(Mr Andrew Turner.)

5. Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform
Ordered, that the Chair write today to the Deputy Prime Minister on the subject of the Cabinet Office Business Plan.

Ordered, That the letter be reported to the House as written evidence for publication on the internet.

6. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

The Committee considered this matter, in preparation for an informal private discussion involving Members of the Committee, Mr Tony Travers, London School of Economics, and Professor Colin Copus, De Montfort University.

Mr Fabian Hamilton declared a non-financial interest in relation to the Committee’s inquiry as a former councillor at Leeds City Council.

Sir Peter Soulsby declared a non-financial interest in relation to the Committee’s inquiry as a former councillor and council leader at Leicester City Council and as a possible future candidate for elected mayor of Leicester.

[Adjourned till Thursday 18 November at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 18 November 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Mr Christopher Chope  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Simon Hart  Mr Andrew Turner
Mr Fabian Hamilton  Sir Peter Soulsby
Tristram Hunt  Sheila Gilmore

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Mrs Eleanor Laing

Resolved, That the Committee again thanks Mrs Eleanor Laing for her conduct in chairing the Committee, and in speaking on the Committee’s behalf in the House, in the unavoidable absence of the Chair. (Mr Graham Allen.)

3. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

LPGF 8A  Cabinet Secretary
LPGF 11  Baroness Royall, Opposition Leader, House of Lords

4. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

L&CG 01  Japan Local Government Centre

Sheila Gilmore declared a non-financial interest in relation to the Committee’s inquiry as a former councillor at Edinburgh City Council.

Cllr Roger Gough, Kent County Council, Professor George Jones, London School of Economics and Professor John Stewart, University of Birmingham gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 25 November at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 25 November 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Sheila Gilmore
Mr Fabian Hamilton
Tristram Hunt
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner
Sir Peter Soulsby
Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the Chair should write to Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP and Rt Hon George Osborne MP, seeking their perspectives on the outcome of the meeting of European Finance Ministers of Sunday 9 May 2010, in the light of any inter-party consultation that took place beforehand. (Mr Andrew Turner.)

3. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Professor Tony Travers, London School of Economics and Sir Simon Jenkins gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 2 December at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 2 December 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Sheila Gilmore Tristram Hunt
Andrew Griffiths Mrs Eleanor Laing
Simon Hart Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme
The Committee considered this matter.

2. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election
Ordered, That the Chair write to the Governor of the Bank of England to ask him to explain his role in the process of government formation following the May 2010 general election.

3. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government
Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

L&CG 02 Emeritus Professor George Jones and Emeritus Professor John Stewart
Baroness Eaton, Chairman, Local Government Association, a Member of the House of Lords, Sir Merrick Cockell, Leader, Kensington and Chelsea Council, Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney, and Lord Bichard, a Member of the House of Lords, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 9 December at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 9 December 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Mr Christopher Chope  Mr Fabian Hamilton
Sheila Gilmore  Tristram Hunt
Andrew Griffiths  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Simon Hart  Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Edinburgh, in connection with its ongoing programme of work.

2. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to lessons from the process of government formation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   LPGF 12  Governor of the Bank of England

3. Fixed-term Parliaments Bill

Resolved, That the Committee takes note of the Chair’s intention to table an amendment to the Bill. (printed as Amendment No. 1, Consideration of Bill, Supplement to Votes p 1253)

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to fixed term Parliaments be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   FTPB 07  Clerk of the House, 7 December 2010

4. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   L&CG 03  Bristol City Council
   L&CG 04  Local Government Association
   L&CG 05  Professor Steve Leach, De Montfort University, Professor Vivien Lowndes, University of Nottingham and Dr Mark Roberts, De Montfort University
   L&CG 06  Andrea Hill, Chief Executive, Suffolk County Council
   L&CG 07  Professor Colin Copus, De Montfort University
Sir Howard Bernstein, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council, Andrea Hill, Chief Executive, Suffolk County Council, and Steven Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 16 December at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 16 December 2010

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Sheila Gilmore  Simon Hart
Andrew Griffiths  Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the draft Cabinet Manual.

2. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to lessons from the process of government formation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   LPGF 13  Letter from Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
   LPGF 14  Letter from Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer

3. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Dr Bill Moyes, Associate, Institute for Government, Jessica Crowe, Executive Director, Centre for Public Scrutiny, Simon Parker, Director, New Local Government Network and Sir Simon Milton, Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning, and Chief of Staff to Boris Johnson, Greater London Authority gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 January at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 13 January 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Mr Christopher Chope  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore  Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart  Stephen Williams
Tristram Hunt

1. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Mr Clive Betts MP, Chair, Communities and Local Government Committee
Professor Chris Himsworth, University of Edinburgh
Mr Bill Moyes

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. The constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Professor Iain McLean, Oxford University
Professor Rodney Brazier, University of Manchester
Mark Ryan, Coventry University
Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies, King's College London
Philip Hosking
John Ellery Gillingham
Professor Robert Hazell and Dr Ben Yong, The Constitution Unit, University College London
Institute for Government

Professor Robert Hazell, Constitution Unit, University College London, Lord Hennessy, Queen Mary, University of London, and Professor Iain McLean, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 18 January at 3.00 p.m.]
Tuesday 18 January 2011

Members present
Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Mr Christopher Chope  Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore         Mrs Eleanor Laing
Andrew Griffiths      Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart            Stephen Williams

1. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Alistair Darling MP

2. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Resolved, That written evidence be sought from an academic witness, containing an illustrative draft code governing the relationship between central government and local authorities in England.

3. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence on prisoner voting.

[Adjourned till Thursday 20 January at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 20 January 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Mr Christopher Chope          Mrs Eleanor Laing
Andrew Griffiths              Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart                    Stephen Williams
Tristram Hunt

1. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election

Draft Report (Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election) 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 Fourth Report from the Committee, HC 528.

2. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the role and powers of the Prime Minister.


Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Professor Rodney Brazier, University of Manchester (supplemental)
Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies, King’s College London
Localis
Democratic Audit
Richard Gordon QC

4. Constitutional lessons from New Zealand

Margaret Wilson, Professor of Law and Public Policy, Waikato University, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, New Zealand, gave oral evidence.

5. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Centre for Public Scrutiny (supplemental)

Mr Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Communities and Local Government Committee, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 February at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 27 January 2011

Sheila Gilmore, Simon Hart and Mr Andrew Turner visited Edinburgh in accordance with the Committee’s decision of 9 December 2010
Tuesday 1 February 2011

Members present

Mr Christopher Chope  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore  Mr Andrew Turner
Andrew Griffiths  Stephen Williams
Simon Hart

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

1. Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

Resolved, that the Committee take further evidence in public on the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill, before the Bill returns to the House.

2. Constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

Resolved, that the Committee take further evidence in public on 3 March on the constitutional implications of the draft Cabinet Manual.

3. Prisoner voting

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to prisoner voting be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   Prison Reform Trust
   AIRE Centre

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, a Member of the House of Lords, Dr Eric Metcalfe, JUSTICE and Aidan O’Neill QC gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 February at 10 a.m.]
Tuesday 8 February 2011

Members present

Mr Christopher Chope  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore  Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart  Stephen Williams

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Cardiff in connection with its ongoing programme of work.

2. Visit to Edinburgh on 27 January

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Voting by convicted prisoners

Draft Report (Voting by convicted prisoners: summary of evidence) 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 Fifth Report from the Committee, HC 776.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to voting by convicted prisoners be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

John Hirst (two submissions)
Guy Cudmore

[Adjourned till Thursday 10 February at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 10 February 2011

Members present

Mr Christopher Chope  Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore        Mrs Eleanor Laing
Andrew Griffiths      Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart            Stephen Williams

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

1. **Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill—the impact of recent and proposed amendments**

Jenny Watson, Chair, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, and Andrew Scallan, Director of Electoral Administration and Boundaries, Electoral Commission; and Professor Ron Johnston, University of Bristol, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 3 March at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 3 March 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Fabian Hamilton

Tristram Hunt
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

Resolved, That the Chair should issue a statement on the Committee’s behalf regretting the timing of the publication of the Government’s response to the Committee’s Third Report (HC 437).

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Electoral Commission (supplementary dated 11 February)
- Electoral Commission (further supplementary dated 23 February)
- Professor Ron Johnston (supplementary)

3. Mapping the path to codifying—or not codifying—the UK’s constitution

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to mapping the path to codifying—or not codifying—the UK’s constitution be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies, Kings College London (literature review)

4. Role and powers of the Prime Minister

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the role and powers of the Prime Minister be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Professor Paul Webb
- Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield
- Professor George Jones
- Dr Nicholas Allen
- Dr Eoin O’Malley
- Dr Mark Bennister
- Richard Heffernan
- Mr Elfyn Llwyd MP
5. **Constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual**

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to the constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Gerard W Horgan  
Professor Vernon Bognador

Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, David Walker, and Dr Stuart Wilks Heeg, Democratic Audit, gave oral evidence.

6. **Constitutional issues relating to the courts and Parliament**

Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky and Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg, Democratic Audit, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 10 March at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 10 March 2011

Members present
Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Fabian Hamilton
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Future programme
The Committee considered this matter.

2. Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election: Government response
Draft Special Report (Lessons from the process of government formation after the 2010 general election: Government Response to the Committee’s Fourth Report of Session 2010–11), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

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

Ordered, that the Chair make the Report to the House.

3. Constitutional Reform Process

Resolved, That the Committee submit written evidence to the House of Lords Constitution Committee’s inquiry into the Constitutional Reform Process.

4. Role and powers of the Prime Minister

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the role and powers of the Prime Minister be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Professor Ludger Helms, University of Innsbruck
Green Party of England and Wales
Cabinet Secretary (supplementary)

5. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Professor George Jones and John Stewart (supplementary)

Sir Gus O Donnell KCB, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, gave oral evidence.


The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 March at 10.00 a.m.]
Tuesday 22 March 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Fabian Hamilton
Simon Hart
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Mapping the path to codifying—or not codifying—the UK’s constitution

Pursuant to its resolution of 16 September 2010, the Committee considered a proposal for further research from the Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies, King’s College London.

Resolved, That the Committee agrees to accept the offer of further research.

2. Constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual

Draft Report (Constitutional implications of the Cabinet Manual) 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 from the Committee, HC 734.

3. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

The Committee considered written evidence from Professor Colin Copus, DeMontfort University, supplied pursuant to the Committee’s resolution of 18 January 2011.

Ordered, That the Chair write to those who have given oral evidence to the inquiry, seeking their views on the written evidence received from Professor Copus.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government be reported to the House

Supplementary evidence from Professor Colin Copus

4. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Parliament’s role in decisions to commit armed forces to conflict situations.

[Adjourned till Thursday 31 March at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 31 March 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Sheila Gilmore
Simon Hart
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, that the Committee visit Dublin in July 2011 in connection with its inquiries into the role and powers of the Prime Minister, and mapping the path to codifying – or not codifying - the UK’s constitution, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. Role and powers of the Prime Minister

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the role and powers of the Prime Minister be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales
Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, First Minister of Scotland

3. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to codifying the relationship between Central and local Government be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

London Councils
Chief Executives of Birmingham and Manchester City Councils and Suffolk County Council (supplementary)

4. UK Bill of Rights Commission

Resolved, that the Committee take evidence from the members of the UK Bill of Rights Commission.

5. Parliament’s role in conflict decisions

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Parliament’s role in conflict decisions be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Dr David Jenkins, University of Copenhagen
Sebastian Payne, University of Kent

Dr David Jenkins, Associate Professor of Law, University of Copenhagen, Sebastian Payne, Lecturer in Constitutional and Administrative Law, University of Kent, and Professor Nigel White, Professor of Public International Law, University of Nottingham, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 28 April at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 28 April 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt

Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Seminar on the House of Lords—outcomes

Draft Report (Seminar on the House of Lords: outcomes) 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 Seventh Report from the Committee, HC 961.*

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Role and powers of the Prime Minister

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to the role and powers of the Prime Minister be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Professor Michael Foley, Aberystwyth University

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 May at 9.45 a.m.]
Tuesday 10 May 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Fabian Hamilton  
Mr Andrew Turner

Mrs Eleanor Laing  
Stephen Williams

1. Parliament’s role in conflict decisions

Draft Report (Parliament’s role in conflict decisions) 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 Eighth Report from the Committee, HC 923.

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. The Constitutional Implications of the Cabinet Manual

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee accepts that the final Government response to its Report The Constitutional Implications of the Cabinet Manual may be received after the usual two-month deadline.

[Adjourned till Thursday 12 May at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 12 May 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope               Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore                     Mr Andrew Turner
Mr Fabian Hamilton                 Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Coalition Government’s programme of political and constitutional reform

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Deputy Prime Minister, and Mark Harper MP, Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 19 May at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 19 May 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope  Mr Simon Hart
Mr Fabian Hamilton  Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Role and powers of the Prime Minister

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the role and powers of the Prime Minister be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   Emeritus Professor George Jones, London School of Economics (supplementary)
   Dr Eoin O’Malley, Dublin City University (supplementary)
   Dr Mark Bennister, Canterbury Christ Church University (supplementary)

[Adjourned till Thursday 9 June at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 9 June 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Sheila Gilmore
Mr Fabian Hamilton

Tristram Hunt
Mr Andrew Turner

1. **House of Lords Reform**

*Resolved*, that the Chair write again to the Leader of the House regarding membership of the Joint Committee on House of Lords Reform.

2. **Future Programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Draft Cabinet Manual**

*Resolved*, that the Committee takes note of the Cabinet Secretary’s letter to the Chair of 27 May on the delayed Government response to the Committee’s 6th Report of the Session.

4. **Role and powers of the Prime Minister**

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to the role and powers of the Prime Minister be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Mark Harper MP, Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform, Cabinet Office

5. **UK Bill of Rights Commission**

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to the UK Bill of Rights Commission be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

Sir Leigh Lewis KCB, Chair, and Anthony Speaight QC, member, Commission on a Bill of Rights, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 16 June at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 16 June 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Mr Christopher Chope
Mr Fabian Hamilton
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. UK Bill of Rights Commission

Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC, a Member of the House of Lords, Martin Howe QC, Professor Philippe Sands QC, and Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws QC, a Member of the House of Lords. Members of the Commission on a UK Bill of Rights, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 23 June at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 23 June 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Andrew Griffiths          Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore            Mrs Eleanor Laing
Simon Hart                Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Role and powers of the Prime Minister

Professor Sue Pryce, University of Nottingham, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 30 June at 9.45 a.m.

*The meeting scheduled for Thursday 30 June at 9.45 a.m. was subsequently cancelled.*
Thursday 7 July 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Andrew Griffiths
Sheila Gilmore
Simon Hart

Fabian Hamilton
Tristram Hunt
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Individual electoral registration

Resolved, That the Committee conduct pre-legislative scrutiny of the Government’s proposals on individual electoral registration.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Mapping the path to codifying—or not codifying—the UK constitution

Dr Sophie Boyron, University of Birmingham, Dr Peter Bojom-Lazar, University of Oxford, and Dr Bill Kissane, London School of Economics, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 14 July at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 8 September 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope  Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore        Mrs Eleanor Laing
Andrew Griffiths     Stephen Williams
Simon Hart            Mr Andrew Turner

In the temporary absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair for part of the meeting.

1. Parliament’s role in conflict decisions

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Dr Scott Orford, Professor Colin Rallings and Professor Thrasher
Bristol City Council
Swansea University
EURIM
Association of Electoral Administrators
Information Commissioner’s Office
Credit Services Association
192.com
Electoral Commission
MIND
Electoral Reform Society
Scope
London School of Economics
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
London Borough of Southwark
Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg, Director, Democratic Audit and Dr Roger Mortimore, IPSOS Mori, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 September at 9.45 a.m.]
Tuesday 13 September 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Government’s response to the Committee’s 8th Report: Parliament’s role in conflict decisions

Draft Report (Government’s response to the Committee’s 8th Report: Parliament’s role in conflict decisions) 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 Ninth Report from the Committee, HC 1477.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Open Rights Group
- Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg
- Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg (supplementary)
- British Youth Council


[Adjourned till Thursday 15 September at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 15 September 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt

Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Committee staff

Resolved, That the Committee commends Lydia Menzie’s, the Committee’s second clerk, for her hard work and commitment over the past year, and wishes her well for her future career in the House service.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved That the Committee agrees in principle to inquire into legislative standards, but that terms of reference should not be considered until after a private seminar has been held on the subject.

3. Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

The Labour Party
Mark Harper MP
Chris Ruane MP

John Turner, Association of Electoral Administrators, Jocelyn McCarley, Electoral Office for Northern Ireland, and Michel Saminaden, SOLACE; and Jenny Watson, Chair, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, and Andrew Scallan, Director of Electoral Administration and Boundaries, Electoral Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 October at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 13 October 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Simon Hart
Fabian Hamilton

Tristram Hunt
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Stephen Williams

1. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

The Committee considered further written evidence from Professor Colin Copus, DeMontfort University, together with written evidence received pursuant to its Order of 22 March.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Professor Colin Copus (supplementary)

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government be reported to the House:

Professor Tony Travers
Suffolk County Council
London Councils
Sir Howard Bernstein, Manchester City Council
Steven Hughes, Birmingham City Council
Lord Bichard
The Centre for Public Scrutiny
Professors George Jones and John Stewart
Councillor Roger Gough, Kent County Council,
Local Government Association

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:
Mr Mark Harper MP, Minister for Constitutional Reform, Cabinet Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 27 October at 10.00 a.m.]
Thursday 27 October 2011

Members present

Sheila Gilmore  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Andrew Griffiths  Stephen Williams
Fabian Hamilton  Mr Andrew Turner
Tristram Hunt

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

1. Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation

Draft Report (Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration) 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 Tenth Report from the Committee, HC 1463.

2. Improving the quality of legislation

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Future programme

Resolved, that the Committee take oral evidence on the rules of royal succession.

[Adjourned till Thursday 10 November at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 10 November 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Sheila Gilmore
Fabian Hamilton
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner
Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Labour Party (supplementary)
- Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform (supplementary)

3. Rules of royal succession

Professor Robert Blackburn, King’s College London, and Dr Bob Morris, Constitution Unit, University College London, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 1 December at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 1 December 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Rules of Royal Succession
Draft Report (Rules of Royal Succession) 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 Eleventh Report from the Committee, HC 1615.

2. Parliament’s role in conflict decisions—further Government response
Draft Report (Parliament’s role in conflict decisions—further Government response) 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 Twelfth Report from the Committee, HC 1673.

3. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation
The Committee considered this matter.

4. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists
The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Government’s forthcoming Green Paper on a introducing a statutory register of lobbyists.

5. Future programme
The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform on the timing of the Committee’s scrutiny of the forthcoming Green Paper on a statutory register of lobbyists and White Paper on recall of Members of Parliament.
6. Petition

The Committee considered a Petition to the House from Residents of Edmonton and others, regarding the proposed boundary changes put forward by the Boundary Commission for England in relation to the constituency of Edmonton.

7. Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration—draft legislation

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Individual Electoral Registration and Electoral Administration be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Electoral Commission (supplementary)
- Association of Electoral Administrators (supplementary)

[Adjourned till Thursday 8 December at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 8 December 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope       Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore              Stephen Williams
Simon Hart

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Mapping the path to codifying—or not codifying—the UK constitution

The Rt Hon Tony Benn, Professor Richard Gordon QC, and Frank Vibert, Department of Government, London School of Economics, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 15 December at 11.15 a.m.]
Thursday 15 December 2011

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Sheila Gilmore  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Fabian Hamilton  Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart  Stephen Williams

1. Political party funding

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Recall of MPs

Resolved, That the Committee conduct pre-legislative scrutiny of the Government’s White Paper and Draft Bill on the recall of MPs.

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Thursday 12 January at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 12 January 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Paul Flynn  Simon Hart
Sheila Gilmore  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Fabian Hamilton  Stephen Williams

1. Declaration of interests

Paul Flynn declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. Recall of MPs

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Recall of MPs be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Dr Anne Twomey
Professor Joseph F. Zimmerman

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Mapping the path to codifying—or not codifying—the UK’s constitution

Linda Colley, Professor of History, Princeton University, and Dr John Allison, Senior Lecturer in Law, Cambridge University, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 19 January at 9.45 a.m.]
1. Political party funding

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

Resolved, That the Committee conduct an inquiry into ensuring standards in the quality of legislation.

3. Seminars on Scotland’s constitutional future

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, that Members and staff have leave to visit Glasgow in January and Edinburgh in March to attend seminars on Scotland’s constitutional future in a representative capacity.

4. Recall of MPs

Mr Douglas Carswell MP, Zac Goldsmith MP, Peter Facey, Unlock Democracy, and Dr Alan Renwick, University of Reading, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 26 January at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 26 January 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Sheila Gilmore    Mr Andrew Turner
Mrs Eleanor Laing Mr Stephen Williams

1. Political party funding
Draft Report (Political party funding) 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 Thirteenth Report from the Committee, HC 1763.

2. Future programme
The Committee considered this matter.

3. Recall of MPs
Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Recall of MPs be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Robert Rogers, Clerk of the House of Commons
Nick Cowen

Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP, Chair, Standards and Privileges Committee, and John Lyon CB, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; Robert Rogers, Clerk of the House of Commons, Liam Laurence Smyth, Clerk of the Journals, House of Commons, and Michael Carpenter, Speaker’s Counsel, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 2 February at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 2 February 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope                Simon Hart
Paul Flynn                           Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore                       Mrs Eleanor Laing
Andrew Griffiths                     Mr Andrew Turner
Fabian Hamilton                      Mr Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee’s call for evidence and associated documents be published in the Municipal Journal in co-operation with the Local Government Association, with a fraction of the costs incurred in doing so, amounting to no more than £200, to be borne by the Committee.

3. Recall of MPs

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Recall of MPs be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

The Committee on Standards in Public Life
Keith Archer, Chief Electoral Officer, British Columbia
Professor David Judge, University of Strathclyde

4. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to ensuring standards in the quality of legislation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Nic Dakin MP
Alison Seabeck MP
Daniel Greenberg

5. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Tamasin Cave, Spinwatch and the Alliance for Lobbying Transparency, Justin Fisher, Professor of Political Science, Brunel University and Lionel Zetter, gave oral evidence.
[Adjourned till Thursday 23 February at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 23 February 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope          Simon Hart
Paul Flynn                     Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore                 Mr Andrew Turner
Fabian Hamilton                Mr Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Ordered, That the following written paper relating to the prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government be published on the internet with the draft code for relations between central and local government:

- Principles for a draft code governing relations between central government and local authorities in England

3. Recall of MPs

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Recall of MPs be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- The Electoral Commission
- Alliance Party for Northern Ireland

4. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to introducing a statutory register of lobbyists be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Simon Cramp
- Joe Egerton, Justice in Financial Services

[Adjourned till Thursday 1 March at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 1 March 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope Simon Hart
Sheila Gilmore Tristram Hunt
Andrew Griffiths Mr Andrew Turner
Fabian Hamilton Mr Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to introducing a statutory register of lobbyists be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Tamasin Cave, SpinWatch supplementary
UK Public Affairs Council (UKPAC)
UK Deans of Science (UKDS)
Mark Adams
TUC
Association of Professional Political Consultants
Dr John Hogan
The Whitehouse Consultancy Ltd
Countryside Alliance
Edelman
Public Relations Consultants Association
Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)
Unlock Democracy
Chartered Institute of Public Relations
Emma Catterall
Mark Ramsdale
Dr Conor McGrath
Rob McKinnon
Central Lobby Consultants Ltd
National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)

Mark Adams, lobbyist, and founder of the website standup4lobbying, Mark Ramsdale, lobbyist, and Elizabeth France CB, Independent Chair, UK Public Affairs Council, gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till Thursday 8 March at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 8 March 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Paul Flynn  
Sheila Gilmore  
Andrew Griffiths  
Simon Hart  
Mrs Eleanor Laing  
Mr Andrew Turner  
Mr Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to introducing a statutory register of lobbyists be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   Political Lobbying and Media Relations (PLMR)  
   Law Society  
   Phil Harris and Conor McGrath  
   CBI

3. Recall of MPs

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to recall of MPs be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   Unlock Democracy

Lewis Baston, Democratic Audit, and John Turner, Chief Executive, Association of Electoral Administrators, gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till Thursday 15 March at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 15 March 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope    Simon Hart
Paul Flynn              Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore          Mrs Eleanor Laing
Andrew Griffiths        Mr Stephen Williams

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Draft memorandum to the Liaison Committee

Resolved, That the Committee submit written evidence to the Liaison Committee inquiry on Select Committee powers and effectiveness.

3. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Francis Ingham, Chief Executive, Public Relations Consultants Association (PRCA), Jane Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) and Helen Johnson, Chair, Association of Professional Political Consultants (APPC) gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till Thursday 22 March at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 22 March 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Paul Flynn
Andrew Griffiths
Fabian Hamilton

Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt
Mrs Eleanor Laing

1. Committee staff

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee thank Steven Mark, the Committee’s clerk, for his hard work since the Committee’s inception, and wish him well for the future.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Ben Kernighan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Public Policy and Communications, NCVO, Nigel Stanley, Head of Campaigns and Communications, Trade Union Congress and John Wotton, President of the Law Society, gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till Thursday 19 April at 9.45 a.m.]
1. **Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?**

*Resolved*, That the Committee conduct an inquiry into whether we need a constitutional convention for the UK.

2. **Petition**

The Committee considered the petition to the House from residents of Bedfordshire concerning the proposed boundary changes put forward by the Boundary Commission for England in relation to Dunstable.

3. **Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

4. **Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists**

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to introducing a statutory register of lobbyists be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- UK Public Affairs Council (UKPAC) (supplementary)
- Taxpayers Alliance
- Mark Boleat

5. **Recall of MPs**

The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Deputy Prime Minister, and Mark Harper, Minister for Constitutional Reform gave oral evidence.

6. **The Coalition Government’s programme of political and constitutional reform**

The Rt Hon Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister, and Mark Harper, Minister for Constitutional Reform, gave oral evidence

[Adjourned till Thursday 26 April at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 26 April 2012

Members present
Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Paul Flynn
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Fabian Hamilton
Simon Hart
Tristram Hunt
Mrs Eleanor Laing

1. **Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?**

*Resolved*, That the Committee visit Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh in connection with its inquiry into whether we need a constitutional convention for the UK.

2. **Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation**

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to better legislation be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Mark Ryan
The Constitution Society
Better Government Initiative

4. **Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists**

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to introducing a statutory register of lobbyists be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Index on Censorship
The Institute of Economic Affairs

Dr Raj Chari, Associate Professor of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, and Rob McKinnon, Who’s Lobbying, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 10 May at 9.45 a.m.]
APPENDIX

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Declarations of Members’ interests: 14 July 2010

ALLEN, Graham

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc.
   Received £630 for preparing and giving two lectures to American students in
   the UK. Address of payer: Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive, Los
   Angeles, California 90045-2659, USA. Hours: 32 hrs. (Registered 24
   November 2009)

BOLES, Nick

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc.
   Institute for Government, 2 Carlton Gardens, London SW1Y 5AA
   Fellow, freelance consultant: £29-£25,000 p.a. expected
   Advice on research projects, events programme, development work with MPs,
   ministers, special advisers, 4 hours per week while Parliament is sitting
   2 days per week during Parliamentary recess
   News International Ltd, 1 Virginia Street, London E98 1XY
   Freelance journalist: Up to £5,000, occasional columns @ £500 per column

4. Sponsorships
   Name of donor: Peter Hall (details to follow)
   Address of donor: 33A Chalcot Square, Primrose Hill, London NWT 8YA
   Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £2,000

Mr Boles also declared a non-financial interest as a member of the advisory board of Centre
Forum.

CHOPE, Christopher

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc.
   Received fee of £50 for participating in a television panel discussion for Press
   TV Ltd, Level 1, Westgate House, West Gate, Ealing, London, W5 1YY TBC.
   Hours: 3 hrs (Registered 7 September 2009)

5. Gifts, benefits and hospitality (UK)
   Name of donor: EUK Consulting
   Address of donor: 1-2 Emery Hill Street, London SW1P 1PF
   Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: hospitality for me
   and my wife at Conservative party function in Battersea Park, value £750
   Date of receipt of donation: 1 February 2010
   Date of acceptance of donation: 1 February 2010
   Donor status: unincorporated association

(Registered 3 February 2010)

11. Miscellaneous
   I am a barrister, currently non-practising.
12. Employment of family members
I employ my wife, Christine Chope, as my Secretary.

GILMORE, Sheila

2. Remunerated employment office, profession etc.
Participated in a survey for Ipsos MORI, 79-81 Borough road, London SE1 1FY. Fee of £75 paid to a charity of my choice. Hours: 20 mins. (Registered 26 June 2010)

8. Land and Property
One-bedroom flat in Edinburgh.

11. Miscellaneous
Solicitor (non-practising).
Mrs Gilmore also declared an expected financial interest in the form of a payment not yet made to her in respect of consultancy work for Craigforth undertaken prior to her election. The exact amount of the payment would be registered when it had been received.

HART, Simon

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
Name and address of remunerated employment: The Sundourne Estate
Balfours, Windsor House, Windsor Place, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BY
Amount: £650 p.a.
Nature of work: signing documents and attending one meeting/year
Following my resignation as CEO of the Countryside Alliance I have accepted a one-off severance payment which will be equivalent to 6 months salary and not more than £50k (final amount to be confirmed)
Name and address of payer: Countryside Alliance, 367 Kennington Road, London, SE11 4PT

4. Sponsorships
Name of donor: The Lord Daresbury
Address of donor: Hall Lane Farm, Darebury, Warrington, Cheshire
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £2,000
Donor status: individual
Name of donor: Johan Christofferson
Address of donor: 7 Earl’s Terrace, London W8 6LP
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000
Donor status: individual
Name of donor: Anthony Buckingham
Address of donor: 1 Grosvenor Studios, Grosvenor Mews, Eaton Terrace, London SW1 8HB
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000
Donor status: individual
Name of donor: Carmarthen West & South Pembrokeshire Patrons Club
Address of donor: Town Moor, Moorfield Road, Narberth, Pembrokeshire
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £2,280.86
Donor status: patrons club

12. Employment of family members
I employ my wife, Abigail Kate Hart, as Office Manager
Mr Hart also declared a non-financial interest as a non-executive board member of The Countryside Alliance.

**HUNT, Tristram**

2. **Remunerated employment, office, profession etc**
   Late contractual payment of £21,091.09 for history book ‘Cities of Empire’ following signature on 9 December 2009, prior to entering Parliament from Metropolitain Books, Henry Holt & Company, 175 Fifth Avenue, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10010, USA. Received on 20 May 2010.
   Fee from Watershed Media Centre for appearance at seminar on history and the media on 16 March 2010, prior to entering Parliament. £450.00, received on 20 May 2010.
   Salary as lecturer in history at Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS. £1,947.00 for 12 hours work received on 24 May 2010.

4. **Sponsorships**
   (a) Donations to my constituency party or association, which have been or will be reported by my party to the Electoral Commission:
   Name of donor: Lord (Patrick) Carter
   Address of donor: House of Lords, London, SW1
   Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £2,500
   Donor status: individual
   Name of donor: UNITY
   Address of donor: Hillcrest House, Garth Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 2AB
   Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000
   Donor status: Trade union

**MCKINNELL, Catherine**

8. **Land and Property**
   Residential rented property, jointly owned with spouse in Corbridge, Northumberland.

**SOULSBY, Sir Peter**

8. **Land and Property**
   Holiday flat in Swanage, Dorset, jointly owned with my brothers’ families, for which rental income is received.

9. **Shareholdings**
   Name of company: Cassbar Ltd – Trading as ‘Entropy’
   Nature of Business: Trading as a bar/restaurant in Leicester
   Shareholding is both greater than 15 per cent of the issued share capital of the company and 15 per cent or less of the issued share capital but worth more, at
the previous 5 April, than the current parliamentary salary (£66,000 at 1 April 2010)

12. Employment of family members
   I employ my wife, Lady (Alison) Soulsby, as Office Manager.
   I employ my daughter, Lauren Irwin, as Junior Secretary.
   I employ my daughter, Eleanor Cutkelvin, as Junior Secretary.

TURNER, Andrew

4. Sponsorships
   Donations to my constituency party or association, which have been or will be reported by my party to the Electoral Commission:
   Name of donor: Mr & Mrs B Field
   Address of donor: 25 Birmingham Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7BH
   Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000
   Donor status: individual

8. Land & Property
   1 bedroom flat – half share, Cowes, Isle of Wight, rental income received

12. Employment of Family Members
   I employ my partner, Carole Dennett, as Parliamentary Assistant

WILLIAMS, Stephen
   Nil.

Declaration of Member’s interests: 15 July 2010

LAING, Eleanor

4. Sponsorships
   Name of donor: Don Lewin
   Address of donor: Broad Oaks, Chigwell
   Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000. This donation will be reported to the Electoral Commission.
   Donor status: Individual
   Name of donor: Robin and Jean Llewellyn-Jones
   Address of donor: Thrifts Hall Farm, Abridge Road, Theydon Bois
   Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000. This donation will be reported to the Electoral Commission.
   Donor status: Individual

Declarations of Members’ interests: 11 November 2010

HAMILTON, Fabian
2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
Honorary President of the International Association of Bookkeepers. Address: Suite 30, 40 Churchill Square, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4YU. (Until November 2010) Received £1,500 (one off payment) for approximately 6 hrs per month. (Registered on 3 August 2010)

GRIFFITHS, Andrew

4. Sponsorships

(a) Donations to the constituency party or association, which have been or will be reported by the party to the Electoral Commission:

Name of donor: Mr Richard Lascelles
Address of donor: private
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000
Donor status: individual
(Registered 4 June 2010)

Name of donor: Mr Peter J Hall
Address of donor: private
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £5,000
Donor status: individual
(Registered 4 June 2010)

Name of donor: Business Fore
Address of donor: 5 The Vale London SW3 6AG
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: two donations totaling £12,500
Donor status: unincorporated association
(Registered 4 June 2010)

Name of donor: Mr C P Zabludowicz
Address of donor: private
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £2,500
Donor status: individual
(Registered 4 June 2010)

Name of donor: United and Cecil Club
Address of donor: 38 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8NT
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £3,000
Donor status: unincorporated association
(Registered 4 June 2010)

Name of donor: JCB Research Ltd
Address of donor: lakeside Works Denstone Road Uttoxeter Staffordshire ST14 5JP
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £25,000
Donor status: company
(Registered 4 June 2010)

Name of donor: Mrs NM Oliver
Address of donor: private
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £3,000
Donor status: individual
(Registered 4 June 2010)

Name of donor: Mr J H Lewis
Address of donor: private
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: £2,500
Donor status: individual
(Registered 4 June 2010)

5. Gifts, benefits and hospitality (UK)

Name of donor: Britt Shaw
Address of donor: private
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: tickets for my partner and me to attend the Conservative Party’s Summer Party. Payment for tickets, to value of £900, made directly to the Conservative Party.  
Date of receipt of donation: 5 July 2010  
Date of acceptance of donation: 5 July 2010  
Donor status: individual  
(Registered 22 July 2010 )  

Name of donor: KPMG  
Address of donor: 1 Snowhill Snow Hill Queensway Birmingham B4 6GH  
Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Ticket and hospitality for myself and a member of my staff provided at the Test Match between England and Pakistan at Edgbaston: value £1128  
Date of receipt of donation: 6 August 2010  
Date of acceptance of donation: 6 August 2010  
Donor status: company 0C301540  
(Registered 2 September 2010)  

8. Land and Property  
Half share of flat in London.  

Declaration of Members’ interests: 12 January 2012  

FLYNN, Paul  

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc  
Payments from ComRes for taking part in surveys. Address: 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. All monies given to charity. January 2011, £75. Hours: 1 hr. (Registered 21 February 2011)  
Payment of £80 from YouGov, 50 Featherstone St, London EC1Y 8RT, January 2011, for completing research survey in January 2011. Hours: 1 hr. The payment was donated to charity. (Registered 4 February 2011)