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

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to mapping the path to codifying—or not codifying—the UK’s constitution submitted by the Centre for Political and Constitutional Studies, Kings College London be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

The Committee considered this matter.

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

CBI supplementary
Melanie Newman, reporter, The Bureau for Investigative Journalism

3. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles.
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:

- Nick Raynsford MP
- The Hansard Society
- Eloise Ellis, Lecturer in Law, University of East Anglia

Daniel Greenberg, Parliamentary lawyer, Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 17 May at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 17 May 2012

Members present
Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope  Simon Hart
Paul Flynn  Tristram Hunt
Sheila Gilmore  Stephen Williams

1. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Recall of MPs

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the recall of MPs submitted by Mark Harper MP, Minister for Constitutional Reform be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform submitted by Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Deputy Prime Minister be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to introducing a statutory register of lobbyists submitted by Jeremy Heywood be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Mark Harper MP, Minister for Constitutional Reform, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 14 June at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 14 June 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Paul Flynn  Simon Hart
Sheila Gilmore  Tristram Hunt
Andrew Griffiths  Mr Andrew Turner

1. Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege

Ordered, that the Chair write to the Whips regarding membership of the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege.

2. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

The Committee considered this matter.

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

Joe Egerton, Justice in Financial Services
Karen E Shepherd, Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada

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

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Professor Matthew Flinders
The Constitution Society

5. Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform

Written evidence relating to the Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform submitted by Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP was ordered to be reported to the House for printing.
6. **Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation**

The Committee considered this matter.

Richard Heaton, First Parliamentary Counsel, and David Cook, Second Parliamentary Counsel, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 21 June at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 21 June 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Paul Flynn
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Recall of MPs

Draft Report (Recall of MPs) 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 373.

2. Amendments to the Electoral Registration and Administration Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

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

The Committee considered this matter.

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:

Professor Iain McLean
George Jones and John Stewart

4. Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Professor Iain McLean
Dr Clair Sutherland
Dr Alan Renwick
Graham Pearce and Sarah Ayres
Michael Gordon and Brian Thompson
Unlock Democracy
5. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

The Committee considered this matter.


[Adjourned till Thursday 28 June at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 28 June 2012

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

(Ordered) That the written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK submitted by Democratic Audit be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Peter Facey, Unlock Democracy, and Lewis Baston, Democratic Audit, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 5 July at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 5 July 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

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

1. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Deputy Prime Minister.

4. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles submitted by Nic Dakin MP be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

Dr Ruth Fox, Hansard Society, gave oral evidence.

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

Dr Ruth Fox, Hansard Society, gave further oral evidence.

Mr Graham Allen resumed the chair.

Professor Dawn Oliver, Emeritus Professor of Constitutional Law, University College London, and Mr Mark Ryan, Senior Lecturer in Constitutional of Administrative Law, Coventry University, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 July at 10a.m.]
Tuesday 10 July 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Mr Andrew Turner
Fabian Hamilton

1. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Draft Report (Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists) 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 153.

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales
Andrew RT Davies AM

[Adjourned till Thursday 12 July at 9.30 a.m.]
Thursday 12 July 2012

The Committee met at the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Paul Flynn
Simon Hart

Mr Andrew Turner

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

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Leanne Wood, Leader of Plaid Cymru and Assembly Member for South Wales Central

Kirsty Williams, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats and Assembly Member for Brecon and Radnorshire

Andrew RT Davies AM, Leader of the Opposition; and Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister, National Assembly for Wales, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 6 September at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 6 September 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Paul Flynn  Fabian Hamilton
Andrew Griffiths  Mr Stephen Williams
Simon Hart

1. The Rules of Royal Succession

Draft Special Report (Rules of Royal Succession: Government Response to the Committee’s Eleventh Report of Session 2010-12), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the Eleventh Report from the Committee of Session 2010-12 was appended to the Report.

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.

2. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to introducing a statutory register of lobbyists submitted by the Taxpayers’ Alliance (supplementary) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Joan Walley MP
Peter Allen, doctoral researcher and sessional lecturer in Politics, Birkbeck, University of London
Rt Hon The Lord Boateng of Akyem and Wembley
Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP
Keith Dowding
Chris Mullin

4. Electronic-only circulation

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.
6. Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK submitted by James Ware be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Sir Merrick Cockell, Chair, Local Government Association; and Will Godfrey, Strategic Director for Corporate Services, Bristol City Council, Ged Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council, and Tom Riordan, Chief Executive, Leeds City Council, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 September at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 13 September 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Paul Flynn  Tristram Hunt
Andrew Griffiths  Mrs Eleanor Laing
Fabian Hamilton  Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart

1. Electronic-only circulation

Resolved, That the Committee move to electronic-only circulation of Committee papers.

2. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles submitted by Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

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:

Daniel Greenberg (supplementary)
City of London Corporation
The Law Commission
Lord Norton of Louth

Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Lord Maclennan of Rogart, a Member of the House of Lords, and Lord Norton of Louth, a Member of the House of Lords, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 4 October at 10.15 a.m.]
Thursday 4 October 2012

The Committee met at the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh

Members present
Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Fabian Hamilton
Mrs Eleanor Laing

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

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Ruth Davidson MSP
- Professor James Mitchell

Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the Scottish Parliament; Nigel Smith, Director of VoxScot, Professor James Mitchell, Strathclyde University; Ruth Davidson MSP, Leader of the Conservatives in the Scottish Parliament; and Johann Lamont MSP, Leader of Labour in the Scottish Parliament, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 18 October at 9.45 a.m.]

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1 Vote entry: 15 October 2012
1. Recall of MPs

Draft Special Report (*Recall of MPs: Government response to the Committee’s First Report of Session 2012-13*), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government’s response to the First Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. 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:

- Ashfield District Council
- West Berkshire Council
- Dr. Andrew Blick
- Wakefield Metropolitan Council
- Association of North East Councils
- Oxford City Council
- North Dorset District Council
- Cllr Peter Adams, Poole City Council
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Swindon Borough Council
- Profs George Jones and John Stewart
- Chris Himsworth
- National Association of Local Councils (NALC)
- Terry Snow, Mid Devon District Councillor
- West Somerset District Council
The Constitution Society
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)
Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Manning, 5th Cambridgeshire District Council
Mark Crane, Selby Council
Essex County Council
Havering Borough Council
Nigel Slack
North Tyneside Council
Cllr Jillian Creasy, Sheffield City Council
West Somerset Council
South East England Councils (SEEC)
London Borough of Ealing
Chesterfield Borough Council
Kirklees Council
Sheffield for Democracy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Surrey County Council
Dr Catherine Durose
Adur District Council and Worthing Borough Council
Richard Harbord
Reading Borough Council
Sunderland City Council
Dorset County Council
Cllr Ron Halliday, Wakefield Council
Staffordshire County Council
National Association of Councillors
Bristol City Council
Wolverhampton City Council
Association of County Chief Executives
Cllr Chapman, Deputy Leader of Nottingham City Council
Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council
London Borough of Sutton
Suffolk County Council
North Kesteven District Council
Centre for Public Scrutiny
Mansfield District Council
Kent County Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Durham County Council
Mayor of Tower Hamlets
Devon County Council
Lancashire County Council
Kensington and Chelsea
Henry Peterson
Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO)
Christchurch Borough Council
Sarah Ayres, Senior Lecturer in Policy Studies, University of Bristol
West Sussex County Council
Stephen Greasley, University of Exeter
4. **Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?**

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK submitted by Canon Kenyon Wright (supplementary) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Lord Maclellan, a Member of the House of Lords, and Canon Kenyon Wright gave oral evidence.

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

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to ensuring standards in the quality of legislation submitted by the Law Commission (supplementary) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Sir David Lloyd Jones, Chairman, Ms Elaine Lorimer, Chief Executive, the Law Commission, and Adrian Hogarth, Parliamentary Counsel at the Law Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 1 November at 2.00 p.m.

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**Thursday 1 November 2012**

The Committee met at the Northern Ireland Assembly, Belfast
Members present
Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Paul Flynn  Stephen Williams
Fabian Hamilton  Mr Andrew Turner

1. 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:

  - Nottinghamshire County Council
  - Gedling Borough Council
  - Leeds City Council
  - Cllr John Shepherd, Bassetlaw District Council
  - Tony Pearce
  - John W Healy
  - Graham Benjamin
  - Birmingham City Council
  - Sir Robin Wales, Mayor of Newham

2. 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:

  - Harry Beresford
  - National Assembly for Wales
  - The Scottish Parliament
  - Richard Heaton
  - Northern Ireland Assembly
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:

The Constitution Society  
Professor Stanley Henig on behalf of the Federal Trust for Education and Research  
Unlock Democracy

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

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Nigel Smith, Voxscot  
Law Commission of Scotland  
Sir Merrick Cockell  
Esther A Robertson  
SOLACE  
Simon Cramp  
Deputy First Minister for Scotland  
Electoral Reform Society  
Dr Robin Wilson

Dr Robin Wilson, independent researcher on devolution; and Mike Nesbitt MLA, Leader of the Ulster Unionist party, John McCallister MLA, and Dr Christopher McGimpsey, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 8 November at 10.30 a.m.]
Thursday 8 November 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Paul Flynn
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths

Mrs Eleanor Laing
Stephen Williams

1. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

The Committee considered this matter

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to ensuring standards in the quality of legislation submitted by Lord Curry, Non-Executive Chair, Better Regulation Executive be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

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

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government submitted by Dr Nicky Davis be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles submitted by Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK submitted by Miss Chloe Smith MP, Parliamentary Secretary be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Miss Chloe Smith MP, Parliamentary Secretary, and Ciaran Martin, Director, Constitution Group, Cabinet Office, gave oral evidence.

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

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

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

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the impact of the Wright reforms on the effectiveness of Parliament.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the next steps on House of Lords reform.

2. 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:

J. D. Budden
2020 Public Services Hub
Move Your Money UK (MYM)
Prof. Hugh Bochel
Philip Coleman, Chichester District Council
Unlock Democracy

3. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

Rt Hon Peter Riddell, Director, and Akash Paun, Senior Researcher, Institute for Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 29 November at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 29 November 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

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

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That the Chair write to the Permanent Secretaries of Departments about the impact of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act.

2. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

*Ordered*, That the Chair write to the Chair of the UK Public Affairs Council in connection with this inquiry.

3. 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:

   Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham
   Joe Duckworth
   John Newman

4. Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK submitted by the Mayor of London be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to the impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles submitted by Baroness Armstrong be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Sir Bob Kerslake, Head of the Civil Service, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 6 December at 9.45 a.m.]

Thursday 6 December 2012
Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope      Tristram Hunt
Paul Flynn              Mrs Eleanor Laing
Fabian Hamilton        Mr Andrew Turner
Simon Hart

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

Rt Hon Lord Turnbull KCB CVO, a member of the House of Lords; and Chris Mullin gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 13 December at 8.45 a.m.]
Thursday 13 December 2012

Members present

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

1. Revisiting *Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright Reforms*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to ensuring standards in the quality of legislation submitted by the Public Bill Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

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

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to the prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government submitted by Eden District Council be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

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

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Deputy Prime Minister, and Miss Chloe Smith MP, Parliamentary Secretary, gave oral evidence.
7. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

Rt Hon Charles Clarke; Rt Hon Lord Heseltine, a member of the House of Lords; and Rt Hon Lord Reid, a member of the House of Lords, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 17 December at 3.30 p.m.]
Monday 17 December 2012

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Sheila Gilmore  Tristram Hunt
Fabian Hamilton  Stephen Williams
Simon Hart

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

Draft Report (Prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government) 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 656.

[Adjourned till Thursday 10 January at 11.45 a.m.]
Thursday 10 January 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Andrew Griffiths
Fabian Hamilton
Mrs Eleanor Laing

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

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Role and powers of the Prime Minister

Ordered, that the Chair write a letter to the Chief Whip about the impact of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act.

3. Parliament’s role in conflict decisions

Ordered, that the Chair write a letter to the Foreign Secretary about consulting Parliament when military action is taken.

4. Revisiting Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP, Leader of the House, and Adam Pile, Head of Parliamentary Business and Legislation Secretariat, Economic and Domestic Secretariat, Cabinet Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 17 January at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 17 January 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

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

1. House of Lords reform: what next?

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to the prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government submitted by Andrew North, Chief Executive, Cheltenham Borough Council be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Revisiting Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright reforms

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from the Electoral Commission on the results of the data-matching pilots for individual electoral registration.

6. Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?

Paul Silk, Chair of the Commission on Devolution in Wales, and Professor Noel Lloyd, Commission member, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 24 January at 9.45 a.m.]
1. The prospects for codifying the relationship between central and local government

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to ensuring standards in the quality of legislation submitted by the Better Government Initiative (supplementary) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

4. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

The Committee considered this matter.

Sir Jeremy Heywood KCB CVO, Cabinet Secretary, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 31 January at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 31 January 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

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

1. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to ensuring standards in the quality of legislation submitted by Professor Dawn Oliver be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

The Committee considered this matter.


[Adjourned till Thursday 7 February at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 7 February 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

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

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

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to ensuring standards in the quality of legislation submitted by the Leader of the House be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. **Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform**

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to the Coalition government programme of political and constitutional reform submitted by the Deputy Prime Minister be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

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

The Committee considered this matter.

4. **Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **The role and powers of the Prime Minister**

The Committee considered this matter.

Professor Robert Hazell CBE, Professor of British Politics and Government; and Professor Michael Foley, Professor of International Politics, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 28 February at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 28 February 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Paul Flynn
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths

Fabian Hamilton
Tristram Hunt
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner

1. **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:

- Hansard Society (supplementary)
- Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP

2. **Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles**

The Committee considered this matter.

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to the impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles from the Cabinet Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Lord O'Donnell, a Member of the House of Lords, gave oral evidence.

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

Professor Gerald Holtham; and Alan Trench gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 7 March at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 7 March 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Paul Flynn
Sheila Gilmore
Andrew Griffiths
Tristram Hunt
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Revisiting Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright reforms

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Revisiting Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright reforms be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Sarah Wollaston MP
John Hemming MP
Leader of the House
Better Government Initiative
Barry Winetrobe
Natascha Engel MP
Catherine Bochel
Angela Eagle MP, Shadow Leader of the House
Prof Hugh Bochel & Dr Andrew Defty

3. The 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 Richard Toye, University of Exeter
Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

Dan Corry, former Head of the No. 10 Policy Unit; Dr Mark Bennister, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, Canterbury Christ Church University; and Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, Senior Consultant on constitutional affairs to Policy Exchange, gave oral evidence.

Adjourned till Thursday 14 March at 9.45 a.m.
Thursday 14 March 2013

Members present

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

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

1. **Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

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

*Ordered*, That the written evidence relating to a constitutional convention for the UK submitted by Gerald Holtham be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. **Revisiting *Rebuilding the House*: the impact of the Wright reforms**

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence relating to Revisiting *Rebuilding the House*: the impact of the Wright reforms be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   David Howarth
   Dr Meg Russell
   Laurence Robertson MP

Dr Meg Russell, Deputy Director, Constitution Unit, University College London; and Catherine Bochel, University of Lincoln, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 21 March at 9.15 a.m.]
Thursday 21 March 2013

Members present
Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope       Fabian Hamilton
Paul Flynn                   Mrs Eleanor Laing
Sheila Gilmore              Mr Andrew Turner

1. Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?
   The Committee considered this matter.

2. Future programme
   The Committee considered this matter.

3. Ensuring standards in the quality of legislation
   
   Ordered, That written evidence relating to ensuring standards in the quality of legislation submitted by Joan Walley MP be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Revisiting Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright reforms
   
   Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Revisiting Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright reforms be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

   - Graham Brady MP
   - Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair of the Public Administration Committee
   - Chris Mullin
   - Andrew Miller MP, Chair of the Science and Technology Committee
   - Sir Alan Beith MP, Chair of the Justice Committee
   - David TC Davies MP, Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee

   Dr Tony Wright, Professor of Government and Public Policy, University College London, and David Natzler, Clerk Assistant and Director General, Department of Chamber and Committee Services, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 25 March at 3.45 p.m.]
Monday 25 March 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope

Stephen Williams

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

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft report (Do we need a constitutional convention for the UK?) 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 371.

[Adjourned till Thursday 18 April at 9.45 am]
Thursday 18 April 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Mr Christopher Chope
Paul Flynn
Sheila Gilmore

Fabian Hamilton
Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the impact and effectiveness of ministerial reshuffles be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Rt Hon Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office
Sir Jeremy Heywood, Cabinet Office

3. House of Lords reform: what next?

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to House of Lords reform: what next? be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Christopher Hartigan
James Ware
Dr Stephen Barber
Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Policy Committee
Dr Nicholas DJ Baldwin
Mark Ryan
Charlie Thacker
John Smith
Rt Hon David Blunkett MP
Professor Iain McLean
Rt Hon Lord Howarth of Newport
Electoral Reform Society
The Green Party
Dr Michael Gordon
Lord Cobbold
Dr Alan Renwick
Damien Welfare and Daniel Zeichner
Unlock Democracy
Martin Wright
Simon Cramp
Imran Asim Hayat
Dr Meg Russell
4. Revisiting *Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright reforms*

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence relating to Revisiting *Rebuilding the House: the impact of the Wright reforms* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- Clive Betts MP, Chair of CLG Committee
- James Arbuthnot MP, Chair of the Defence Committee
- Louise Ellman MP, Chair of the Transport Committee
- Andrew Tyrie MP, Chair of the Treasury Committee
- Michael Meacher MP
- Unlock Democracy
- Nick Palmer (MP for Broxtowe 1997-2010)
- Democratic Audit
- Charles Walker MP

Sir Richard Mottram, Chair, Better Government Initiative, Rower Dawe, Better Government Initiative, Peter Facey, Director, Unlock Democracy, Alexandra Runswick, Deputy Director, Unlock Democracy, Professor Patrick Dunleavy, Co-Director, Democratic Audit, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 25 April at 9.45 a.m.]
Thursday 25 April 2013

Members present

Mr Graham Allen, in the Chair

Paul Flynn
Sheila Gilmore
Fabian Hamilton

Mrs Eleanor Laing
Mr Andrew Turner

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Data matching pilots for individual electoral registration

Jenny Watson, Chair, Electoral Commission, Andrew Scallan, Director of Electoral Administration, Electoral Commission, and Phil Thompson, Research and Evaluation Manager, Electoral Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 9 May at 9.45 a.m.]