

Formal Minutes of the Joint Committee on the Draft Voting Eligibility Bill

Extract from the House of Lords Minutes of Proceedings on 16 January 2013

Prisoner Voting Lord Hill of Oareford moved that it is expedient that a joint committee of Lords and Commons be appointed to consider and report on the draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill presented to both Houses on 22 November 2012 (Cm 8499). The motion was agreed to and a message was sent to the Commons.

Extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons of 16 April 2013

Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill (Joint Committee)

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House concurs with the Lords Message of 15 January 2013, that it is expedient that a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons be appointed to consider the draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill presented to both Houses on 22 November 2012 (Cm 8499), and that the Committee should report by 31 October 2013.

That a Select Committee of six Members be appointed to join with the Committee appointed by the Lords;

That the Committee shall have power-

- (i) to send for persons, papers and records;
- (ii) to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House;
- (iii) to report from time to time;
- (iv) to appoint specialist advisers; and
- (v) to adjourn from place to place within the United Kingdom;

That Mr Crispin Blunt, Steve Brine, Lorely Burt, Mr Nick Gibb, Sir Alan Meale and Derek Twigg be members of the Committee.

Leave out lines 13 and 14 and insert 'That the membership of the Committee shall be nominated by the Committee of Selection under Standing Order No. 121 following elections within the parties using whatever democratic and transparent method they choose.'-(*Mr Andrew Lansley.*)

Amendment (a) proposed.-(*Mr Christopher Chope.*)

Question, That the Amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question agreed to.

Extract from the House of Lords Minutes of Proceedings on 22 April 2013

Prisoner Voting The Chairman of Committees moved that the Commons message of 22 April be considered and that a Committee of six Lords be appointed to join with the Committee appointed by the Commons to consider and report on the draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill presented to both Houses on 22 November 2012 (Cm 8499) and that the committee should report on the draft bill by 31 October 2013;

That, as proposed by the Committee of Selection, the following members be appointed to the Committee:

L Dholakia	L Norton of Louth
B Gibson of Market Rasen	L Peston
B Noakes	L Phillips of Worth Matravers

That the Committee have power to agree with the Committee appointed by the Commons in the appointment of a Chairman;

That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records;

That the Committee have power to appoint specialist advisers;

That the Committee have power to adjourn from place to place within the United Kingdom;

That the report of the Committee shall be printed, regardless of any adjournment of the House; and

That the evidence taken by the Committee shall, if the Committee so wishes, be published.

The motion was agreed to.

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

1st meeting

Wednesday 15 May 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia

Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen

Baroness Noakes

Lord Norton of Louth

Lord Peston

Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Steve Brine MP

Lorely Burt MP

Sir Alan Meale MP

1. Declaration of Interests

The full lists of Members' interests as recorded in the Commons Register of Members' Financial Interests and the Lords Register of Interests were declared. Interests relevant to the Committee's inquiry were declared. (see Appendix).

2. Election of Chairman

Mr Nick Gibb MP was called to the Chair.

3. Written evidence

Ordered, That written evidence received by the Committee be published on the Committee's website.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 5 June at 9.30 am.]

Appendix

Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:

Lord Dholakia: President and Trustee of National Association of Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO), Trustee of the Police Foundation, and Ambassador for No Offence

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

2nd meeting

Wednesday 5 June 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia

Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen

Baroness Noakes

Lord Norton of Louth

Lord Peston

Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Steve Brine MP

Lorely Burt MP

Derek Twigg MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Programme of work

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Committee Visit

Resolved, That the Committee would visit a prison as part of their inquiry.

4. Informal Briefing with the Bill Team

Officials from the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Justice provided an informal briefing to the Committee.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 12 June at 9.30 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

3rd meeting

Wednesday 12 June 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia
Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen
Baroness Noakes
Lord Norton of Louth
Lord Peston
Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Mr Crispin Blunt MP
Steve Brine MP
Lorely Burt MP
Sir Alan Meale MP
Derek Twigg MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Round-table discussion with Experts

Committee informally discussed the draft Bill with:

Dr Susan Easton BSc LLM PhD Barrister, Reader in Law at Brunel University, **Colin Murray** LLB MJur, Senior Lecturer in Law and Director of Undergraduate Programmes at the Newcastle Law School, University of Newcastle, **Prof. Jeremy Waldron** BA LLB MA DPhil FBA, Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory, All Souls College, Oxford and University Professor of Law, New York University School of Law, and **Dr Peter Bennett** BA PhD FRAI, Director of the International Centre of Prison Studies and former Prison Governor

[Adjourned until Wednesday 19 June at 9.30 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

4th meeting

Wednesday 19 June 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia

Baroness Noakes

Lord Peston

Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Steve Brine MP

Lorely Burt MP

Sir Alan Meale MP

Derek Twigg MP

1. Specialist Advisers

Ordered, that Colin Murray be appointed specialist adviser.

2. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: written evidence

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Voting Eligibility Bill be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Dr Susan Easton
- Criminal Justice Alliance
- Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
- Sir Leigh Lewis
- Howard League Scotland
- Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC
- Dr Christopher Bennett and Dr Daniel Viehoff
- Dr Bharat Malkani
- Prisoner Governors' Association
- Jonathan Fisher QC
- Rt Hon David Blunkett MP
- Peter Chester
- Policy Exchange
- Robert Walter MP
- Electoral Management Board for Scotland
- Paul Langton
- HM Inspectorate of Prisons
- Archbishops' Council Church of England
- Prison Reform Trust

- Rt Hon David Davis MP, the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP and Dominic Raab MP
- Liberty
- Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Law Society of Scotland
- Leigh Day Solicitors
- Anthony Speaight QC
- The Electoral Commission
- JUSTICE
- Cormac Behan
- Martin Howe QC
- Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Victim Support
- HM Government

3. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: oral evidence

Juliet Lyon, Director, The Prison Reform Trust, Sorcha Daly, Specialist Contracts Manager, Women in Prison and Mark Johnson, Founder, User Voice, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 26 June at 9.30 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

5th meeting

Wednesday 26 June 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia
Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen
Lord Norton of Louth
Lord Peston
Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Mr Crispin Blunt MP
Steve Brine MP
Derek Twigg MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: written evidence

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Sir Francis Jacobs
- John Hirst

2. Committee visit

The Committee discussed this matter.

3. Future meeting times

The Committee considered this matter.

4. September sitting

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Oral evidence

General the Lord Ramsbotham GCB CBE gave evidence.

Nuala Mole, Founder and Senior Lawyer at the Aire Centre, Aidan O'Neill QC, Angela Patrick, Director of Human Rights Policy at JUSTICE and Lord Faulks

QC, Chairman of Research at the Society of Conservative Lawyers, gave evidence.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 3 July at 9.20 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

6th meeting

Wednesday 3 July 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia
Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen
Baroness Noakes
Lord Norton of Louth
Lord Peston
Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Mr Crispin Blunt MP
Lorely Burt MP
Sir Alan Meale
Derek Twigg MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: written evidence

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Colin Murray
- Lord Lester of Herne Hill (supplementary written evidence)

2. Oral evidence

Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC and the Rt Hon. the Lord Goldsmith QC gave evidence

Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, Senior consultant on Constitutional Affairs, Policy Exchange and Mr Dominic Raab MP gave evidence

[Adjourned until Wednesday 10 July at 9.30 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

7th meeting

Wednesday 10 July 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia
Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen
Baroness Noakes
Lord Norton of Louth
Lord Peston
Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Lorely Burt MP
Derek Twigg MP

1. Committee Visit

Resolved, That the Chair, Lorely Burt, Lord Dholakia, Lord Norton of Louth, and Lord Peston have leave to visit HMP Downview and HMP High Down in a representative capacity.

2. Oral evidence

Dr Cormac Behan, Lecturer in Criminology, The University of Sheffield, Professor Sir Francis Jacobs, Professor of Law, King's College London and Professor Dirk Van Zyl Smit, Professor of Comparative and International Penal Law, University of Nottingham gave evidence.

Professor Julian Roberts, Professor of Criminology at the University of Oxford, and Professor Mike Hough, Professor of Criminal Policy and Co-Director of the Institute for Criminal Policy, Birkbeck, University of London gave evidence.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 17 July at 9.30 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

8th meeting

Wednesday 17 July 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia

Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen

Lord Norton of Louth

Lord Peston

Mr Crispin Blunt MP

Steve Brine MP

Lorely Burt MP

Sir Alan Meale MP

Derek Twigg MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: written evidence

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Dr Richard Fairburn
- Lord Cormack
- Professor Julian Roberts and Professor Mike Hough

2. Committee work programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Joint Committee request an extension to its deadline.

3. Oral evidence

Rt Hon Jack Straw MP and Rt Hon David Davis MP gave evidence.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 9 October at 9.30 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

9th meeting

Wednesday 9 October 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Norton of Louth
Lord Peston
Baroness Noakes

Mr Crispin Blunt MP
Steve Brine MP
Lorely Burt MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: written evidence

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Professor Sir Francis Jacobs
- Quaker Crime, Community and Justice Sub-Committee
- The Aire Centre

2. Oral evidence

Rt Hon Lord Mackay of Clashfern KT gave evidence.

Dr Christopher Bennett (Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Sheffield), Martin Kettle (Home Affairs Policy Adviser at the Mission & Public Affairs Division of the Church of England), Professor Nicola Lacey (Professor of Law, Gender and Social Policy at the London School of Economics), Dr Daniel Viehoff (Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Sheffield) and Professor Jeremy Waldron (Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory at All Souls College, Oxford University) gave evidence.

Three Lords Members not being present, the Chair adjourned the Committee until Wednesday 16 October at 9.30 am.

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

10th meeting

Wednesday 16 October 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia

Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen

Lord Norton of Louth

Lord Peston

Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Lorely Burt MP

Derek Twigg MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: written evidence

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Her Majesty's Government (supplementary written evidence)
- The Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales

2. Oral evidence

Nick Hardwick (Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons) gave evidence.

Digby Griffith (Director of National Operations Services, National Offenders Management Service), Paul McDowell (Chief Executive, NACRO) and Eoin McLennan Murray (President, Prison Governors Association) gave evidence.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 23 October at 9.30 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

11th meeting

Wednesday 23 October 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia

Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen

Baroness Noakes

Lord Norton of Louth

Lord Peston

Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Mr Crispin Blunt MP

Steve Brine MP

Lorely Burt MP

Sir Alan Meale MP

Derek Twigg MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: written evidence

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Nils Muižniek, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

2. Oral evidence

Robert Walter MP (Head of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe) gave evidence.

3. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill (Heads of Report)

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 30 October at 9.30 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

12th meeting

Wednesday 30 October 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia
Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen
Lord Norton of Louth
Lord Peston

Mr Crispin Blunt MP
Steve Brine MP
Lorely Burt MP

1. Oral evidence

Tony Kelly (Taylor & Kelly), Sean Humber (Partner and head of department, Leigh Day) and Benjamin Burrows (Solicitor, Leigh day) gave evidence.

Joshua Rozenberg (Legal Commentator and Journalist), and Adam Wagner (UK Human Rights Blog) gave evidence.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 6 November at 9.00 am.]

FORMAL MINUTES

SESSION 2013-14

13th meeting

Wednesday 6 November 2013

Present:

Mr Nick Gibb MP, in the Chair

Lord Dholakia
Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen
Lord Norton of Louth
Lord Peston
Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers

Mr Crispin Blunt MP
Steve Brine MP
Lorely Burt MP
Derek Twigg MP

1. Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill: written evidence

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Paul McDowell, Chief Executive, Nacro

2. Oral evidence

Thorbjørn Jagland (Secretary General of the Council of Europe) and Christos Giakoumopoulos (Director of Human Rights at the General Directorate of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe) gave evidence.

Rt Hon Dominic Grieve MP (Attorney General) gave evidence.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 20 November at 9.30 am.]