

## APPLYING TO JOIN PARLIAMENTARY AGENCY ROLL A

### *Purpose*

The purpose of the Parliamentary Agency Roll A has always been to secure the efficient operation of the private Bill procedures in each House, by ensuring that persons offering to act on behalf of the promoters of a private Bill have the necessary knowledge and competence. As important is that those persons can be relied upon by both Houses to uphold high standards and values in transacting private business and in a way that is fair to all parties. The Roll is maintained by the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons and the Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords, on the advice of the four Examiners of Private Bills.

### *Application*

If you wish to be added to Roll A you should write to the Clerk of Private Bills in each House.

You will be invited to demonstrate your knowledge and competence in relation to the promotion of private Bills by attending an interview with the Examiners, in the course of which you will be asked—

- (a) to present the papers for a specimen private Bill required to demonstrate compliance with Standing Orders;
- (b) to submit to Examination on compliance with Standing Orders in relation to your specimen private Bill;
- (c) to present your specimen private Bill as if to an Unopposed Private Bill Committee, together with all relevant documents including one or more proposed amendments;
- (d) to answer relevant questions about the application of Standing Orders and the procedures for private Bills; and
- (e) any other questions the Examiners may wish to ask in order to satisfy themselves as to your suitability to join Roll A.

Your letter of application should specify the short and long titles of a specimen Bill that you wish to use for the purposes of your application. This may be a real Bill that has been promoted by you or your firm in the past, or an illustrative Bill designed for the purposes of your application. You are encouraged to use a Bill modelled closely on a recent unopposed private Bill.

You may attend the interview accompanied by a colleague who proposes to act as Parliamentary Clerk in relation to private Bills promoted under your Agency, although the Examiners will expect you to answer their questions yourself; if you attend alone, you will be required to satisfy the Examiners that clerical functions in connection with your Agency will be provided for.

### *Sources of information*

Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice (25<sup>th</sup> Edition) contains information about the procedures for private Bills. The Standing Orders Relating to Private Business for each House of Parliament are on the Parliamentary website, as are transcripts and recordings of proceedings on recent private Bills.

**Examiners of Private Bills  
July 2021**