



## HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

### Decisions

Monday 27 April 2020

#### Attendance

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Lord McFall of Alcluith (Deputy Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
- Liz Hewitt (external member)
- Lord Judge
- Lord Laming
- Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Lord Wakeham

The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams. Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance.

#### 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The Commission agreed the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 2 April 2020.

#### 2. Virtual Proceedings and Remote Committee attendance: Eligibility for payment of the Daily Allowances

C/19-21/22 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Members in receipt of the daily allowance declared this as a relevant interest before contributing.

The Commission **agreed** to suspend the current allowances system and replace it with a temporary system which recognised the contributions made by Members in the new virtual proceedings and in virtual committee meetings. The Commission **agreed** that the claimable sum should be the reduced daily rate of £162, that this should be the amount claimable for those who participate in both virtual proceedings and committee meetings as well as those who participate in physical proceedings and committee meetings. The Commission **agreed** that the new system should be applied retrospectively to 21 April. The Commission **agreed** to review the temporary allowances system before the end of June.

The Commission agreed that the further details of the temporary scheme, including the definition of participation, and a short statement, should be agreed by

correspondence. The Leader of the House **agreed** to table a resolution on the matter for agreement by the House.

**3. A New Communications and Engagement Strategy**

Michael Winders, Director of Communications  
C/19-21/23 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Lord Speaker deferred consideration of this item until the next meeting.

**4. Steering Group for Change: First Report**

Baroness Donaghy, Chair, Steering Group for Change, and Pippa Patterson, Steering Group for Change Lead  
C/19-21/24 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Lord Speaker deferred consideration of this item until the next meeting.

**5. Update on the Administration**

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments  
C/19-21/25 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **took note** of the Update.

**6. Virtual Proceedings**

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments  
C/19-21/26 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **took note** of the paper.

**7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Next meeting**

The Lord Speaker informed Commission members that the next meeting would take place during the week commencing Monday 18 May 2020 via Microsoft Teams and that the date and time of the meeting would be confirmed by correspondence.

Monday 27 April 2020

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