



PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Friday 12 June 2020

Present:

L. Ashton of Hyde	L. McAvoy
B. Browning	L. McFall of Alcluith (Chair)
L. Eames	L. Mancroft
B. Evans of Bowes Park	L. Morris of Aberavon
B. Finlay of Llandaff	L. Newby
L. Foulkes of Cumnock	B. Smith of Basildon
L. Fowler	L. Stoneham of Droxford
L. Geddes	B. Thomas of Winchester
B. Harris of Richmond	B. Warwick of Undercliffe
L. Judge	

_____ with the Clerk of the Parliaments.

Apologies were received from Lord Bew and Viscount Ullswater.

I. Remote voting

The Chair introduced the papers (PC/19-21/31 and PC/10-21/32). The clerk outlined the member engagement work and system testing which had been undertaken. There had been four all-member tests so far with two more planned to take place after the Committee's meeting. There had been no serious issues reported. The clerk undertook to inform the Committee if the final tests revealed any serious issues.

The Committee recorded its thanks to all those who had worked to introduce the remote voting system successfully and to a challenging timetable.

The Committee signed off the remote voting system and agreed that it should be used for divisions in the House from Monday 15 June.

The Leader of the Opposition reminded the Committee that the remote voting system did not involve the appointment of tellers which meant that an individual member could cause a division to take place. The Committee agreed to revisit this if it became an issue.

A member of the Committee asked whether an abstention button could be included in the remote voting system. The Chair explained that this was contrary to usual Lords procedure as it was not possible to abstain in a normal division in the Chamber.



2. Extension to deadline for amendments

The Chair introduced the paper (PC/19-21/33). Servicing bill stages which may start as early as 12.30pm would require the small Public Bill Office team to work on briefs in the evenings as well as amendment documents. The Committee was therefore invited to agree that the cut-off for tabling amendments should be advanced from 5pm (4pm on Friday) to 4pm each day. This change was agreed.

3. Any Other Business

The Chair told the Committee that there had been some discussion about whether members who participate physically should observe the normal rules of attendance at debate. The Committee agreed that the usual rules did apply and to discuss this at the next meeting when they would review the first two weeks of the hybrid House.

The Committee agreed to meet again on Wednesday 24 June at 4pm using MS Teams.

Chloe Mawson
Clerk of the Procedure Committee