

POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS ACT 2000



THE SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

SECOND REPORT 2020

Re-appointment of the Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

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The Speaker's Committee

The Speaker's Committee is appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to perform the functions conferred on it by that Act.

Membership

[Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP](#), Speaker of the House of Commons (Chair)

[Mr Simon Clarke MP](#), Minister of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

[Rt Hon Michael Gove MP](#), Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

[Craig Mackinlay MP](#)

[Christian Matheson MP](#)

[Karl McCartney MP](#)

[Cat Smith MP](#)

[Owen Thompson MP](#)

[William Wragg MP](#), Chair of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Previous Publications

First Report 2020 was published 21 April 2020 as HC 277 of Session 2019–21

First Report 2019 was published 8 July 2019 as HC 2513 of Session 2019

Fourth Report 2018 was published 28 November 2018 as HC 1786 of Session 2017–19

Third Report 2018 was published 15 November 2018 as HC 1727 of Session 2017–19

Second Report 2018 was published 24 October 2018 as HC 1639 of Session 2017–19

First Report 2018 was published 14 March 2018 as HC 901 of Session 2017–19

First Report 2017 was published 27 February 2017 as HC 1031 of Session 2016–17

Second Report 2017 was published 6 November 2017 as HC 535 of Session 2017–19

Third Report 2017 was published 14 December 2017 as HC 688 of Session 2017–19

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Re-appointment of the Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was established by Parliament as a body independent of Government. The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (“the 2009 Act”) specifies that the LGBCE shall consist of the chair and between four and eleven other Commissioners (“ordinary members”). The chair of the LGBCE is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, following an Address from the House of Commons. Ordinary Commissioners are appointed by Her Majesty the Queen on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
2. Paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the 2009 Act states that, for the appointment of the LGBCE Chair, a motion for an address can only be made with the Speaker’s agreement and if the person whose appointment is proposed has been selected in accordance with a procedure put in place and overseen by the Speaker’s Committee on the Electoral Commission. Paragraph 6 of the same Schedule states that, in the case of a reappointment, this procedure is to be read as including a reference to being recommended for reappointment by the Speaker’s Committee.
3. The current term of office of the chair of the LGBCE, Professor Colin Mellors OBE, began on 1 January 2016 and comes to end on 31 December 2020. In January 2020, the Chief Executive of the Commission wrote to the Committee asking it to consider whether to recommend Professor Mellors for reappointment.
4. We therefore decided to seek feedback from interested parties on Professor Mellors’ performance during his first term. Responses were received from the Chief Executive of the LGBCE, the Deputy Chair and Chair of the Audit Committee jointly on behalf of all Commissioners, Simon Clarke MP (the responsible Minister in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), and a former Commissioner.
5. Together, the responses gave us a positive impression of the way Professor Mellors had carried out the role. They suggested that he had taken an open and inclusive approach to chairing the Commission, that he had effectively maintained the Commission’s independence, impartiality and credibility, and that he had brought to the role a strong understanding of the local government sector and the wider policy context. We also heard that Professor Mellors had ensured the Commission’s finances were carefully scrutinised to enable it to deliver value for money.
6. Having deliberated upon this feedback, we are satisfied as to Professor Mellors’ effectiveness and the contribution he will continue to make to the work of the LGBCE. We are therefore happy to recommend that Professor Mellors be reappointed for a further term of five years. We commend his reappointment to the House.