



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

Thursday 16 July 2020

Attendance

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Lord McFall of Alcluith (Deputy Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- 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

Apologies were received from Mathew Duncan (external member). Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

1. Matters Arising

The Lord Speaker said that the letters which had been circulated in advance of the meeting relating the R&R Strategic Review would be discussed under any other business.

2. Allowance Scheme: medium term changes

C/19-21/44 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Allowance Scheme: medium term changes (alternative proposal)

C/19-21/45 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Ed Ollard, the Clerk of the Parliaments explained that the proposals contained in paper C/19-21/45 reflected the latest discussions between the leaders, Convenor and Lord Speaker.

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park and Baroness Smith of Basildon suggested that the proposals in paper C/19-21/45 would command the support of the House and that they should be agreed. The Commission agreed and decided that an announcement should be made the following day.

After discussion the Commission **agreed** the revised scheme as shown in the annex and **agreed** that the proposals should be put to the House for agreement before the summer recess.

3. Any Other Business

Questions were asked about COVID-19 arrangements, on testing for members, the process of verifying attendance in Westminster and future catering arrangements. Mr Ollard said that he would return to the Commission at the following meeting with further details.

The Lord Speaker explained that two letters relating to the R&R Strategic Review had been circulated in advance of the meeting, a letter from the Prime Minister to David Goldstone CBE, CEO of the R&R Delivery Authority, and Sarah Johnson, CEO of the R&R Sponsor Body and a letter from Liz Peace CBE, Chair of the R&R Sponsor Body, to the Speakers of both Houses.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

The Lord Speaker said that the letter from Ms Peace would be considered at the following meeting.

4. Next meeting

The Lord Speaker informed Commission members that the next meeting would take place via Microsoft Teams at some stage before the summer recess.

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ANNEX

	Scheme operating until 31 August 2020	Agreed new scheme operating from 1 September 2020 until 31 January 2021
Chamber or Grand Committee: virtual participation	Reduced allowance (£162)	Reduced allowance (£162)
Chamber or Grand Committee: Westminster attendance	Reduced allowance (£162)	Full allowance (£323)
Committees (and other mandated business): virtual	Reduced allowance (£162)	Full allowance (£323)
Committees (and other mandated business): Westminster	Reduced allowance (£162)	Full allowance (£323)
Remote Voting	Reduced allowance (£162)	Reduced allowance (£162)
New categories		
Supplementary Parliamentary work allowance (designated opposition frontbench)	N/A	Designated frontbenchers may claim the full allowance (£323) for up to 10 days per month, with a ceiling that a members' overall claims must not exceed the days the House sits over the course of that calendar month.
Supplementary Parliamentary work allowance (Select Committee Chair)	N/A	Full allowance (£323) for committee meetings and for a maximum of five additional days per month. Subject to an overall ceiling that Members' claims may not exceed the days the House sits over the course of that calendar month.