



HOUSE OF LORDS

Procedure and Privileges Committee

8th Report of Session 2021–22

Support for remote participation

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Procedure and Privileges Committee

The Select Committee on Procedure and Privileges of the House is appointed each session to consider any proposals for alterations in the procedure of the House that may arise from time to time, and whether the standing orders require to be amended.

Membership

The members of the Procedure and Privileges Committee are:

<u>Lord Ashton of Hyde</u>	<u>Lord Mancroft</u>
<u>Lord Bew</u>	<u>Lord McFall of Alcluith</u> (Lord Speaker)
<u>Lord Eames</u>	<u>Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall</u>
<u>Baroness Evans of Bowes Park</u>	<u>Lord Newby</u>
<u>Lord Faulkner of Worcester</u>	<u>Baroness Quin</u>
<u>Lord Gardiner of Kimble</u> (Chair)	<u>Baroness Sanderson of Welton</u>
<u>Baroness Harris of Richmond</u>	<u>Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury</u>
<u>Baroness Humphreys</u>	<u>Baroness Smith of Basildon</u>
<u>Lord Judge</u>	<u>Lord Stoneham of Droxford</u>
<u>Lord Kennedy of Southwark</u>	

Alternate members

[Baroness Browning](#) (for backbench Conservative members)
[Baroness Finlay of Llandaff](#) (for Crossbench members, other than the Convenor)
[Lord Collins of Highbury](#) (for backbench Labour members)
[Lord Alderdice](#) (for backbench Liberal Democrat members)
[Lord Turnbull](#) (for the Convenor)

Declaration of interests

A full list of Members' interests can be found in the Register of Lords' Interests:

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests>

Publications

All publications of the Committee are available at:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/191/procedure-and-privileges-committee/publications/>

Further information

Further information about the House of Lords and its Committees, including guidance to witnesses, details of current inquiries and forthcoming meetings is available at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/lords>

Contact details

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Eighth Report

Support for remote participation

1. Baroness Thomas of Winchester has requested that an assistant be allowed to support her in delivering speeches while participating remotely.
2. Lady Thomas' request builds on the precedent set in 2012, when the House agreed the recommendation of the Procedure Committee that Baroness Campbell of Surbiton's assistant be authorised "to enter the chamber of the House, or any committee of the House, in order to provide her with necessary practical and personal help, and to read out the text of speeches on her behalf".¹
3. The change made in 2012 was a "reasonable adjustment ... a modification to the physical environment or to working practices made in order to assist a disabled person to participate equally in normal activities". It reflected the specific circumstances of Lady Campbell, but entailed no general change to the House's procedures, and the Committee assured the House that "any further request for such adjustments would be considered afresh, in light of the specific circumstances of the individual case".
4. Lady Thomas is now encountering increasing difficulty in speaking at length, and although she is already eligible on grounds of long-term disability to participate remotely in accordance with Standing Order 24A, she seeks this additional support. She envisages speaking herself at the beginning and end of any speech, and has also indicated that if she attended the House in person, or took part in select committee work, she would not call upon an assistant to facilitate her speaking.
5. Having considered the specific circumstances affecting Lady Thomas, we are satisfied that the adjustment she has requested is reasonable and will help her to make a continuing contribution to the work of the House.
6. **We recommend that, as a reasonable adjustment, Baroness Thomas of Winchester be authorised to call on an assistant to support her in delivering speeches while participating remotely.**

1 Procedure Committee, [First Report](#), Session 2012–13 (HL Paper 25)