



LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING ON 6 JULY 2022 at 10.15AM
DECISIONS DOCUMENT

Present:

Bradley, L.
Collins of Highbury, L.
Gardiner of Kimble, L. (Chair)
Howe, E.
Judge, L.
Scott of Needham Market, B.
Taylor of Holbeach, L.
Walmsley, B.

I. COMMITTEE REPORT DEBATES

The Committee discussed the backlog of committee report debates and suggestions put forward to address this. The following points were amongst those made:

- Establishing more sitting Fridays and guaranteeing time for committee report debates. The Clerk Assistant agreed to look into the cost involved in sitting Fridays and would share this with the Committee in due course.
- The use of QSD slots in order to clear the committee report debate backlog, but the concern that this approach should not become the norm.
- The need to inform select committee Members that press coverage is more likely to be gained during inquiries and at the time of publication rather than at the time of the report debate.
- Whether the Government Whips' Office could offer a range of dates for debates, rather than a specific date to assist with Chairs' other commitments.

The Chair confirmed he would continue to work with the Government Whips' Office to resolve the backlog and create a sustainable system moving forward.

2. IRELAND/NORTHERN IRELAND PROTOCOL SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee *considered* an extension to the term of appointment for the Sub-Committee on the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol until the end of 2023 and *took note* of the letter from the Chair of the European Affairs Committee and the Chair of the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol Sub-Committee to the Senior Deputy Speaker.

The Committee *agreed* to extend the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol Sub-Committee until the end of July 2023. It would review the need for any further extension ahead of this date.

3. COMMON FRAMEWORKS COMMITTEE

The Committee *considered* the future scrutiny of common frameworks and *took note* of the options set out in the note by the Clerk of Committees and the relevant correspondence between the Chair of the Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee (CFSC), the Chair of the Constitution Committee and the Senior Deputy Speaker.

The Committee *agreed* to continue the CFSC, with the Committees Scrutiny Unit providing the staff to support the CFSC.

4. SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP

The Committee *discussed* the possible options for Special Inquiry Committee follow-up.

Earl Howe recused himself from discussions due to ministerial propriety.

The Committee *agreed* that the Soft Power and UK's Influence and Sexual Violence in Conflict inquiries would now fall under the remit of the International Relations and Defence Committee and therefore it would not be suitable to conduct follow-up on these recommendations.

The Committee *agreed* that the Special Inquiry on Regenerating Seaside Towns should be the next priority for follow-up work but this should be reviewed in the Committee's meeting in October once the Chair has consulted Lord Bassam, Chair of the Regenerating Seaside Towns Committee, to discuss follow-up and when he deemed it most valuable to pursue this process.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee *discussed* the invitation to submit special inquiry committee proposals which would be sent out immediately after the meeting. The Committee *agreed* to send out the invitation after Whitsun Recess in future.

6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee would meet next at 3.30pm on Monday 17 October 2022.

Lord Gardiner of Kimble

18 July 2022