

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 4.30 pm
Meeting in the Speaker's Study

Present:

The Speaker, in the Chair
Nickie Aiken
Nick Brown
Thangam Debbonaire
Mark Spencer
Sir Charles Walker
Pete Wishart
Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House)
Marianne Cwynarski (Director General (Operations))
Mr Shrinivas Honap (External member)
Louise Wilson (External member)

Apologies:

None

DECISIONS

COMMISSION

1. Reports and updates
 - a. TUS and Members' staff representatives update
 - b. R&R update
 - c. Oral updates from the Administration Committee and Finance Committee
 - d. House Service update

The Commission took note of updates.

2. Risks relating to passholders facing accusations of sexual misconduct being present on the Estate

The Commission noted the current processes in place for managing risks relating to passholders under investigation for violent or sexual offences and agreed that options should be developed, with input from key stakeholders, on whether and how these processes might be extended. The Commission will further consider these options in the Autumn.

3. Commissioner for Standards Final Panel Report

The Commission endorsed the decision of the recruitment panel on the appointment of a new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards from January 2023 and agreed to publish a report to the House recommending the candidate.

4. Elizabeth Tower Tours

The Commission agreed arrangements for the opening of the Elizabeth Tower for tours, which would include paid and Member sponsored tours. It agreed that the equivalent of one day a week of tours should be available for Member sponsored tours. The Commission agreed to delegate the system for allocating tickets for Member sponsored tours to the Domestic Committees.

5. Financial Remit for 2022–23

The Commission agreed to:

- **Maintain the overall budget envelope agreed by the Commission in January 2022 for the financial years 2023–24 to 2025–26; this allows for a 2% year on year increase.**
- **To reduce the Medium Term Financial Plan to a three-year plan and prepare budgets for the entire three-year period 2023–24 until 2025–26 (previously one year, plus three years indicative).**
- **For capital and investment programmes forming part of the Medium-Term Investment Plan (MTIP), factor in our latest assessment of delivery capacity and investment needs, setting three-year firm budgets up to 2025–26, aligned with the proposal considered by the Joint Investment Board (JIB).**

6. Restoration and Renewal – governance arrangements

The Commission:

- a) **agreed the establishment of the Client Board and its meeting frequency, including while acting in place of the Programme Board;**
- b) **agreed the proposed number and type of external members of the Programme Board, and the process for appointing them;**
- c) **agreed the expectations about the proposed role of the Sponsor Board until the secondary legislation has come into force to abolish it; and for the Speakers to write jointly to the Chair of the Sponsor Board to communicate this.**

COMMISSION/MEC

7. Papers to note

The Commission took note of the following papers:

- **Cultural Transformation and Service Restriction update**
- **Instrument of Delegation from the House of Commons Commission to the Commons Executive Board**
- **Audit Committee Terms of Reference**
- **Deliberations from the meeting held on Monday 13 June**

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Commission/MEC will take place on Monday 12 September 2022 at 10.00 am in the Speaker's Study.

COMMISSION

Subsequent to the Commission meeting it agreed on 26 July 2022, by correspondence, arrangements for the recruitment of lay members for the Committee on Standards.