

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

Monday 14 November 2022 at 10.00 am
Meeting in the Speaker's Study

Present:

The Speaker, in the Chair
Nickie Aiken
Deidre Brock
Thangam Debbonaire
Penny Mordaunt
Sir Charles Walker
Deidre Brock
Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House)
Marianne Cwynarski (Director General (Operations))
Mr Shrinivas Honap (External member)

Apologies:

Nick Brown

DECISIONS

COMMISSION/MEC

1. New Member – Declaration of Financial interests

The Commission welcomed Penny Mordaunt and took note of her declared financial interests.

COMMISSION

2. Reports and updates
 - a. TUS and Members' staff representatives update

The Commission took note of updates.

- b. R&R update

The Commission had been consulted by correspondence on the draft Statutory Instrument to amend the Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Act 2019.

The Commission considered the request from the Public Accounts Committee that minutes and advice relating to R&R decisions should be placed in the Library. It decided not to publish previous papers or advice but noted a previous commitment to seek to increase transparency and that the recently established R&R Client Board was publishing its minutes.

c. Oral update from the Administration Committee and Audit Committee, and written update from the Finance Committee.

The Commission took note of updates.

d. House Service update

The Commission took note of updates.

3. Managing risks relating to passholders under investigation

The Commission agreed to launch a consultation on excluding Members charged with violent or sexual offences from the Parliamentary estate until any such cases are concluded, noting it would be for the whole House to ultimately decide on any such power. The Commission also agreed that the restriction should apply to Parliamentary-funded travel, and that further consideration should be given to structured interventions where there are behaviour concerns. The Commission will consider consultation responses in early 2023.

4. Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme (ICGS) Update

The Commission took note of the ICGS Annual Report for 2021/22 and welcomed that it would receive an update on ICGS governance in Spring 2023.

5. Independent Review of Financial Management in the House of Commons: Management Response

The Commission endorsed the management response to the Independent Review of Financial Management in the House of Commons.

6. Pay Update

The Commission agreed that a non-consolidated payment of £500 should be made to staff in Bands B1 and below in 2022/23 to help with the rising cost of living.

7. Gender Sensitive Parliament audit: 2022 submission to the Women and Equalities Committee

The Commission agreed a progress report for submission to the Women and Equalities Committee.

COMMISSION/MEC

8. Papers to note

The Commission took note of the following papers:

- Financial Monitoring Report - P6 2022/23
- Corporate Business Plan - Q2 2022/23 Performance Report
- Minutes of the Commission meeting held on Monday 24 October

9. Any other business

The Commission agreed that the Select Committee travel cap should be increased for 2021/22 only to reflect rising costs and demand following the pandemic, funded by underspends in the Select Committee Team.

10. Date of next meeting

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