

# PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25 October 2022 at midday

### Present:

Lord Bew	Lord Mancroft
Lord Collins of Highbury	Baroness Sanderson of Welton
Lord Eames	Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury
Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Chair)	Baroness Smith of Basildon
Baroness Harris of Richmond	Lord Stoneham of Droxford
Baroness Humphreys	Baroness Taylor of Bolton
Lord Judge	Lord True
Lord Kennedy of Southwark	Baroness Williams of Trafford
Lord McFall of Alcluith	

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with the Clerk of the Parliaments and the Clerk Assistant.

The Chair welcomed Baroness Taylor of Bolton, Lord True and Baroness Williams of Trafford to their first meeting as members of the Committee.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall and Lord Newby. Lord Collins of Highbury attended the meeting as the Labour Alternate.

### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were *agreed*.

The Chair noted positive feedback he had received from members on the use of pass readers since the last meeting. The Committee *discussed* the error in reporting the result of a division on the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill on 18 October.

The Chair noted he had received a letter from a senior Crossbencher raising concerns as to the length of speeches in the Chamber from some members. The Committee *discussed* the importance of reminding members about the rules and conventions for conduct in the House. The Lord Speaker said he would emphasise this during his introductory meetings with new members. The Clerk Assistant noted that the provision of procedural training to members was under review and the usual channels would be consulted shortly on what the priority areas for refreshed training should be, including for new members.

### **3. Demise of the Crown: procedural matters**

The Chair introduced the paper (PPC/22-23/03). The accession of His Majesty King Charles III required various technical amendments to be made to the references to the monarch in the *Companion* and Standing Orders. Examination of the precedents from 1901 and 1952 suggested that minor changes of this nature could be made administratively by the Committee without the agreement of the House.

In response to a question from Lord Mancroft, the Chair confirmed the updated wording of the prayers had been provided by Lambeth Palace.

Baroness Harris of Richmond asked why members had been required to take the oath of allegiance or make the solemn affirmation on the Demise of the Crown when they had previously done so to Her late Majesty the Queen and her “heirs and successors”. The Clerk Assistant replied that while there was no statutory duty to take the oath following demise, it was the rule in the House of Lords, as per the *Companion*, for members of the House of Lords to do so.

The Committee *noted* the procedures following the death of Her late Majesty the Queen. The Committee *agreed* to report the changes to the *Companion* and Standing Orders to the House for information, including a note of thanks to staff for the successful implementation of Operation Marquee. The changes would be made to the online version of the *Companion* in the short term with new hard copies produced in the longer term.

### **4. Legislative Consent Process**

The Chair introduced the paper (PPC/22-23/04).

The first part of the paper considered a recommendation by the Constitution Committee that notifications of legislative consent by the devolved legislatures should receive greater prominence in *House of Lords Business*. Baroness Taylor of Bolton explained the background to the recommendation, including the Constitution Committee’s engagement with the devolved legislatures. The Committee *agreed* that an italic note should be added to the order paper, when proceedings on Bills were tabled, indicating which devolved legislatures had granted or withheld legislative consent.

The Committee *discussed* the second part of the paper, which considered options for how to notify the House about instances of contested competence. The Committee requested a further paper, for consideration at a future meeting, to include worked examples of the different options. The paper would also consider whether and how to notify the House when consent was pending.

### **5. Any other Business**

The next meeting would take place early in 2023, on a date to be confirmed. The Committee would meet earlier if there were any pressing matters to discuss.

Christopher Johnson  
Clerk of the Journals