

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

Monday 27 February 2023 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
Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House)
Marianne Cwynarski (Director General (Operations))
Mr Shrinivas Honap (External member)

Apologies:

Nick Brown

DECISIONS

COMMISSION

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

The Commission took note of updates.

- b. Updates from the Administration Committee, Audit Committee and Finance Committee.

The Commission took note of the written update from the Finance Committee.

The Commission agreed a revised terms of reference for the Audit Committee. It also approved the appointment of Craig Mackinlay MP to the Audit Committees.

The Commission heard an update on the Administration Committee's report [Smoothing the cliff edge: supporting MPs at their point of departure from elected office](#) and welcomed the general themes; the Commission will consider its formal response at a subsequent meeting.

- c. House Service update

The Commission took note of updates.

The Commission agreed the creation of the Office of the Executive and took note of the planned allocation of functions between the new Office and the Governance Office from 1 April 2023.

COMMISSION

2. Precautionary exclusion of MPs: consultation feedback

The Commission agreed to report to the House on the consultation, noting the support for:

- Some form of mechanism to exclude Members, in relation to alleged violent or sexual criminal offending;**
- Exclusion to comprise both exclusion from the Parliamentary estate and Parliamentary-funded travel;**
- Exclusion being informed by a risk assessment; and**
- Giving an excluded Member a proxy vote.**

It agreed the report should set out three potential options in relation to the threshold for exclusion and the role of risk assessment. The House would be asked to agree an approach following a debate on the floor of the House.

The Commission noted that constituency offices were outside the remit of their proposals and agreed to write to the Speaker's Conference to note the issue.

3. Member Services Survey

The Commission agreed to run a survey of Members that would aim to gather information on new or amended services that might be provided in the future, and that this should be amalgamated with the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey and reviewed for accuracy by service providers. The Commission agreed that Members should be given the option to contribute either by name or anonymously.

The Administration Committee would be consulted in March with the survey to be available after the Easter recess.

4. Independent Review of Financial Management: Implementation Plan

The Commission reviewed and endorsed the implementation plan.

5. Select Committee Travel

The Commission agreed to increase the Select Committee Travel budget in 2023/24 to take account of the increased cost of travel.

MEMBERS ESTIMATE COMMITTEE

6. A Consolidated list of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members as at 27 February 2023

The Committee agreed the publication of the report.

COMMISSION/MEC

7. Papers to note

The Commission took note of the following papers:

- Q3 Financial Monitoring Report (HCC 2023/15)
- Letter from Sir Chris Bryant - Digitisation of Members' Interests (HCC 2023/16)
- Minutes of the Commission meeting held on Monday 16 January

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 20 March 2023 at 10.00 am in the Speaker's Study.