



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Decisions

Tuesday 10 November 2020

Attendance

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Lord McFall of Alcluith (Deputy Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
- Liz Hewitt (external member)
- Lord Judge
- Lord Laming
- Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Lord Wakeham

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams. Keith Leslie, the External Reviewer, and Liz Mohr, the Deputy External Reviewer, were also in attendance.

I. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Commission agreed the record of discussion of the meeting of the House of Lords Commission of 6 October.

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** a new free-standing pass reader should be installed at Peers' Entrance.

The Lord Speaker spoke about Lord Kilclooney's recent tweet about the US Vice-President Elect, Kamala Harris. After discussion, the Commission **agreed** that after any preliminary assessment, should the Commissioner for Standards not consider complaints about Lord Kilclooney's comments to be within her remit, the Lord Speaker should write to Lord Mance, Chairman of the Conduct Committee, inviting the Committee to examine the application of the Code of Conduct with particular regard to Members' use of social media and the desirability of extending the Code to include provision relating to bringing the House into disrepute.

The Lord Speaker thanked Commission members for agreeing the paper on *Refusing Access to the Parliamentary Estate* (Monday 12 October) and the Commission report *Rules relating to Members' staff passes* (Tuesday 3 November) by correspondence.

2. House of Lords External Management Review: Emerging Findings

Cover note from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, Leader of the House of Lords, and Paper from Keith Leslie, External Reviewer, and Liz Mohr, Deputy External Reviewer
C/19-21/69 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

After discussion, on the External Management Review the Commission:

- **endorsed** the emerging findings and direction of travel;
- **agreed** that Mr Leslie and Ms Mohr should continue to consult among Members and staff throughout November, sharing the content of the paper in appropriate contexts, to develop the proposals and to build support for the successful implementation of the work; and
- **agreed** to participate in the discussion of the leadership challenge involved with implementing a number of concurrent programmes of change, namely organisational and digital models, and R&R.

On the recruitment of the next Clerk of the Parliaments, at the Leader's suggestion the Commission **agreed** that the process should begin as soon as possible and that:

- The Clerk of the Parliaments should remain head of the House of Lords Administration, act as the Accounting Officer for the Administration, and retain the statutory responsibilities assigned to the post by the Parliamentary Corporate Bodies Act 1992 and the Clerk of the Parliaments Act 1824;
- Notwithstanding the above, the corporate and operational capacity of the Administration require strengthening to ensure the House and Administration can meet the challenges of the coming years. [*Restricted Access – More Information*]; and
- That external experience should not be a pre-requisite requirement for the post of Clerk of Parliaments.

3. Quarterly Report: R&R Programme Q2 2020/21

Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body
C/19-21/70 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **agreed** to defer the formal consideration of the Quarterly Report until the following meeting.

4. Members Finance Scheme: Changes to the Allowance Guidance

Jonathan Smith, Head of Finance
C/19-21/71 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** to amend the Allowance Guidance to state that “any Special Inquiry Committee or other investigative or legislative scrutiny Committee appointed by the House for the duration of that Committee’s appointment” may give rise to eligibility for the Chairs’ Supplementary Allowance, and that future changes to the committee structure can be made without the need to regularly revise the Guidance. The Commission also **agreed** that Lords Members of the Sponsor Board should be eligible for the Supplementary Allowance on the same

basis as a Committee Chairs set out in paragraph 8(b) of the Resolution of the House of 22 July 2020.

5. Members Finance Scheme: Additional Financial Support for Disabled Members

Jonathan Smith, Head of Finance
C/19-21/72 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** that the framework for approving additional financial support for disabled members remained appropriate. *[Restricted Access – More Information]*.

6. Service Restrictions and Alterations: Draft Guidance

Duncan Sagar, former Organisational Culture Lead
C/19-21/73 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **endorsed** the draft guidance for managers which had been included as an annex to the paper, *Restricting or altering services to passholders – Guidance for managers on exercising their duty of care*.

7. Update on the Administration

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/19-21/74 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **noted** the Update.

8. Next meeting

The Lord Speaker informed Commission members that the next meeting would take place via Microsoft Teams on Monday 30 November at 4pm.

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