



10th Meeting 2019–2021

**LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2020 at 3pm
DECISIONS DOCUMENT**

Present:

Bradley, L.
Davies of Oldham, L.
Hayter of Kentish Town, B.
Howe, E.
Judge, L.
Lang of Monkton, L.
McFall of Alcluith, L. (Chair)
Smith of Hindhead, L.
Tyler, L.
Walmsley, B.

**I. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: MANAGED PROCESS OF CHANGE
NOVEMBER 2020-MARCH 2021**

The Committee *agreed* the principles set out in paragraph 5 and to the timelines set out in paragraphs 6-9 in paper (L/19–21/93) – outlined below.

Underlying principles for a managed process of change November 2020-March 2021

The overall structure of House of Lords committees must be consistent with and build on the Liaison Committee review, which said that committees should be “cross-cutting, comprehensive, flexible, open and outward-looking, and effective”.

The process should seek to identify the main scrutiny gaps, avoiding duplication of existing sessional committee remits, whilst building on existing strengths, knowledge and experience, avoiding unnecessary disruption and ensuring the remits of any new committees are sufficiently wide to adapt to changing circumstances.

This exercise is driven in part by the need to adjust our committee structure to reflect the new relationship with the EU. In developing our proposals, we will be required to take account of the wider needs and interests of the House and ensure that we are equipped to meet new and emerging strategic challenges.

Members and staff should also be consulted on this exercise.

Timeline for decision taking

Decisions about the wider structure of House of Lords committees need to be taken in time for the resulting changes to be synchronised as far as possible and to align with available resource. This

process will also need to take account of the developing position of the negotiations.

After the Liaison Committee's meetings in December it is anticipated that the Committee will agree a report recommending changes to the overall committee structure and the appointment of the new special inquiry committees. It is then likely that the necessary motions could be taken on the floor of the House in January 2021.

The Committee *agreed* to discuss further the proposal that the International Agreements Sub-Committee should be appointed as a sessional Committee for the remainder of the present Parliament at its next meeting.

The Committee discussed paper (L/19–21/94), with several members expressing enthusiasm for the appointment of a sessional committee on environment-related matters.

The Committee *took note* of the suggested engagement strategy outlined in paper (L/19–21/93). Amongst a variety of engagement events with members the Chair *agreed* to arrange an informal meeting with the Chairs of the EU Select Committee, the Common Frameworks Committee and the Constitution Committee.

2. SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE PROPOSALS

Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town abstained from participating on this item on the agenda. The Committee discussed the special inquiry proposals as outlined in paper L/19–21/89 and *agreed* to shortlist proposals the following proposals:

- No 4¹. 'The adequacy and resilience of the Government's plans to deliver net zero carbon emissions by 2050' (Lord Browne of Ladyton)²
- No 27. 'Future of the High Street' (Lord Puttnam)
- No 31. 'Youth unemployment' (Lord Baker of Dorking)

3. PRE-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY

The Committee *agreed* to the Leader's proposal for a joint committee on the repeal of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act.³

4. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee would meet next at 3pm on 26 November 2020

Lord McFall of Alcluith
12 November 2020

¹ With the agreement that proposal 4 would be subject to any decision regarding the proposal for a sessional Committee on environment-related matters.

² Lord Browne's proposal was subsequently withdrawn in the light of the proposal for a sessional committee.

³ Letter from the Leader of the House to the Chair of the Liaison Committee (November 2020):

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3530/documents/33779/default/>