

# **PARLIAMENTARY WORKS ESTIMATES COMMISSION**

## **Minutes of meeting on Monday 6 February 2023**

Members of the Commission present:

Lord Gardiner of Kimble

Dame Rosie Winterton

### **1. Election of interim Chair**

Following the temporary change of membership from Dame Eleanor Laing to Dame Rosie Winterton, Lord Gardiner was called to the Chair for the period ending 3 March 2023.

### **2. Introductions and declarations**

Dame Rosie Winterton was introduced as a new member of the Commission. Dame Rosie did not declare any interests in addition to those already listed in the Register of Members' Financial Interests.

### **3. Publication of documents**

The Commission agreed to publish the following documents:

- Memorandum to the Parliamentary Works Grant Supplementary Estimate for 2022-23.
- Letter from the Corporate Officers to the Secretary to the Estimates Commission, regarding the Phase One Cost Assessment (dated 31.1.23).

### **4. Parliamentary Works Grant Supplementary Estimate 2022-23: briefing**

The Commission was briefed by Bradley Albrow, Secretary to the Commission, and Louise McNair, Scrutiny Unit, on the contents of the brief for the meeting on 7 February.

### **5. Discussion of lines of questioning**

The Commission discussed its lines of questioning for the public evidence session with Programme and House witnesses on 7 February.

### **6. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 7 February 2023**

Members of the Commission present:

Lord Gardiner of Kimble  
Lord MacPherson of Earl's Court GCB

Rt Hon Dame Rosie Winterton

### **1. Parliamentary Works Grant Supplementary Estimate 2022-23: Consideration of Treasury advice**

The Commission considered HM Treasury's advice on the Parliamentary Works Grant Supplementary Estimate for 2022-23.

### **2. Public hearing with Programme witnesses**

The Commission took evidence from Sir John Benger, Clerk of the House, House of Commons, Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, David Goldstone, Chief Executive, Parliamentary Works Delivery Authority, and Dr Patsy Richards, Interim Managing Director, Restoration and Renewal Client Team.

### **3. Consideration of Parliamentary Works Grant Supplementary Estimate 2022-23**

The Commission agreed to lay the Parliamentary Works Grant Supplementary Estimate for 2022-23, and HM Treasury's comments on the Estimate.

### **4. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 9 May 2023**

Members of the Commission present:

Lord Gardiner of Kimble  
Mrs Sharon Hodgson

Dame Eleanor Laing  
Lord MacPherson of Earl's Court GCB

### **1. Election of Chair**

Dame Eleanor Laing was called to the Chair.

### **2. Introductions and declarations**

Mrs Sharon Hodgson was introduced as a new member of the Commission. Mrs Hodgson did not declare any interests in addition to those already listed in the Register of Members' Financial Interests.

Dame Eleanor Laing did not declare any interests in addition to those already listed in the Register of Members' Financial Interests.

### **3. Publication of documents**

The Commission agreed to publish the following documents:

- Memorandum to the Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate for 2023-24.
- Letter from the Corporate Officers to the Secretary to the Estimates Commission, regarding the Phase One Cost Assessment (dated 17.04.23).

### **4. Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate 2023-24: Consideration of Treasury advice**

The Commission considered HM Treasury's advice on the Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate for 2023-24.

The Commission concluded that the advice was less definitive than HM Treasury's advice has been in relation to previous Estimates, and agreed to seek further advice from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

### **5. Public hearing with Programme witnesses**

The Commission took evidence from Sir John Benger, Clerk of the House, House of Commons, Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, David Goldstone, Chief Executive, Parliamentary Works Delivery Authority, and Dr Patsy Richards, Interim Managing Director, Restoration and Renewal Client Team.

### **6. Consideration of Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate 2023-24**

The Commission agreed to defer the formal decision on whether to accept or reject the Estimate, until it has considered the further advice sought from the Chief Secretary Treasury.

The Commission agreed to make comments on the Estimate, and to reconvene in due course to consider the Treasury's further advice, and to finalise the wording of the comments.

### **7. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 24 October 2023**

Members of the Commission present:

Rt Hon Dame Eleanor Laing MP    Lord Gardiner of Kimble  
Sharon Hodgson MP                Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court GCB

### **1. Formal minutes of the last meeting**

The Commission agreed the formal minutes from the meetings of 9 and 15 May 2023.

### **2. Half-year update on the Restoration and Renewal Programme programme's expenditure for 2023-24.**

The Commission was briefed by the Secretary to the Commission and Louise McNair, Scrutiny Unit, ahead of the private evidence session on 25 October 2023.

### **3. Private briefing**

The Commission was briefed by David Goldstone CBE, Chief Executive, Jane Mee, General Counsel and Andy Haynes, Commercial Director, Delivery Authority on a whistleblowing investigation at the Delivery Authority.

### **4. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 25 October 2023**

Members of the Commission present:

Rt Hon Dame Eleanor Laing MP    Lord Gardiner of Kimble  
Sharon Hodgson MP                Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court GCB

### **1. Lines of questioning for the private evidence on the Restoration and Renewal Programme**

The Commission discussed lines of questioning for the private evidence with Programme and House witnesses.

The Commission agreed to write to Rt hon. Nigel Evans MP, Chair of the Programme Board, regarding a whistleblowing investigation at the Delivery Authority.

### **2. Half-year update on the Restoration and Renewal Programme programme's expenditure for 2023-24.**

The Commission took evidence in private from:

- Tom Goldsmith, Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Commons
- Andy Helliwell, Chief Operating Officer, House of Lords
- Dr Patsy Richards, Interim CEO, Sponsor Body
- David Goldstone, Chief Executive, Delivery Authority

### **3. Consideration of private evidence from Programme and House witnesses**

The Commission considered this matter.

### **4. Any other business**

There was no other business.