



HOUSE OF LORDS

Liaison Committee

4th Report of Session 2022–23

Review of House of Lords investigative and scrutiny committee activity in 2022–23

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Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee is appointed by the House of Lords to advise the House on the resources required for select committee work and to allocate resources between select committees; to review the select committee work of the House; to consider requests for Special Inquiry Committees and report to the House with recommendations; to ensure effective co-ordination between the two Houses; and to consider the availability of members to serve on committees.

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The Members of the Liaison Committee are:

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Lord Blencathra	Baroness Scott of Needham Market
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Declaration of interests

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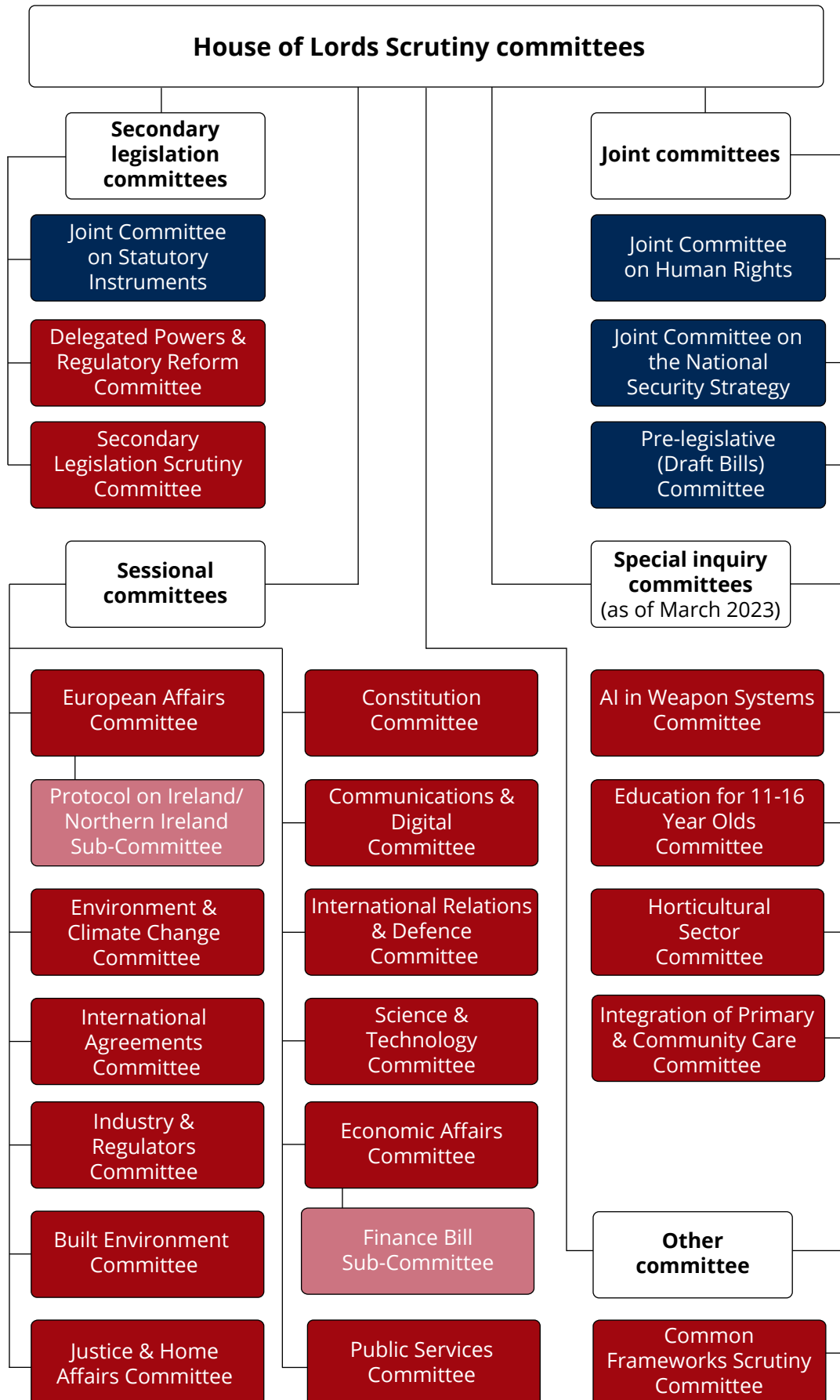
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Review of House of Lords investigative and scrutiny committee activity in 2022–23

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

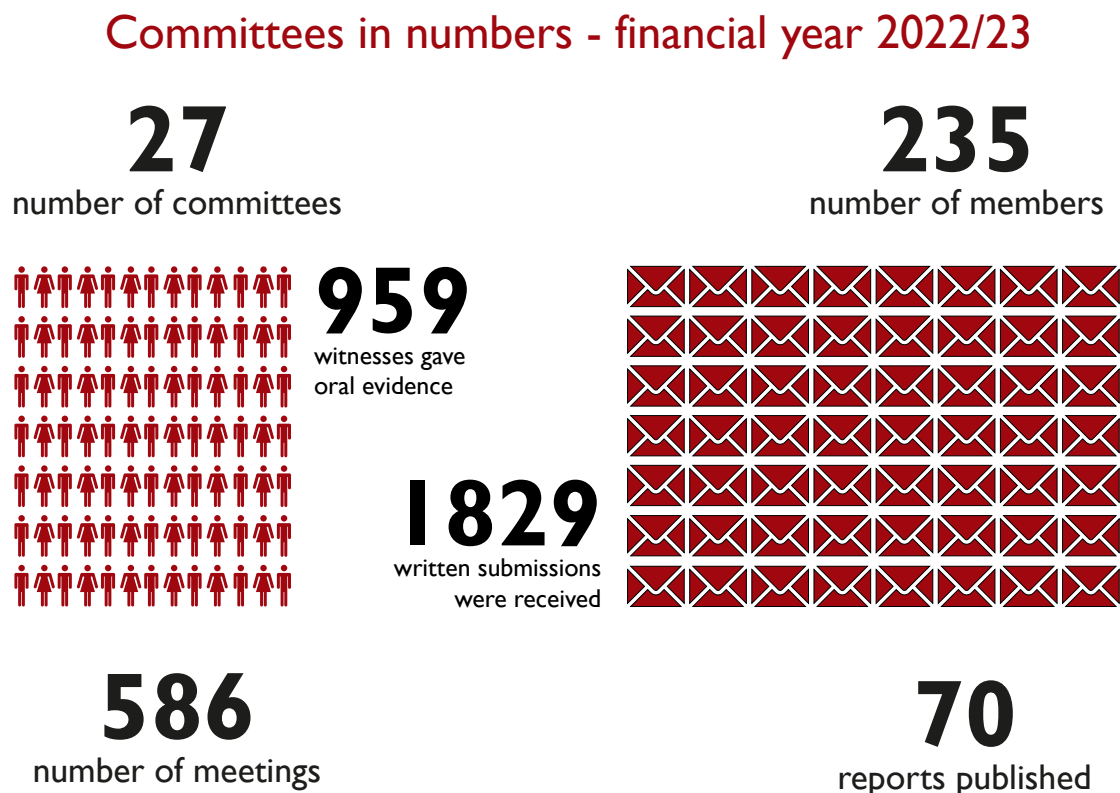
Introduction

1. 2022/23 was a busy and productive year for House of Lords committees. The major review of committees during 2019 and 2020 established a new system with three main elements. First, a series of committees with broad cross-cutting policy remits, giving each committee the latitude to identify and respond to the most important matters within its remit. Second, the continuation of the committees which support the House's crucial role in the scrutiny of primary and secondary legislation. And, finally, building in flexibility to allow the House to assign committees to examine matters of current concern, without having to commit time and resource to each of those subjects in perpetuity.
2. As this report sets out, the new system is generally bedding in well. It means that, for the first time, we have a committee system that allows Lords expertise to address the full spectrum of UK domestic and international policy. Figure 1 lists the investigative and scrutiny committees that were active as of March 2023. The Liaison Committee would like to place on record its thanks to all staff in the Committee Office who continue to provide the highest standards of service to Lords select committees and enable them to undertake their vital scrutiny.

Figure 1: Investigative and scrutiny committees as of March 2023

3. The committee reviews in Chapters 2 to 5 summarise the range of influential and impactful work undertaken by Lords and Joint Committees. Committees recognise the importance of demonstrating the outcomes of committee inquiries. Each committee review highlights the impact of their work whether through legislative amendments, recommendations accepted by Government and incorporated into future policy and strategies, or informing Parliamentary and public debate on key and relevant topics. Some of the committee highlights in communications terms are brought together in Chapter 6. That chapter also highlights one key development during 2022/23; the creation of structures to support deeper engagement with parliamentary committees from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as with the European Parliament.
4. In order to conduct committee work it is essential for Ministers and Departments to engage openly and constructively. It is essential, too, that Committees' reports are debated promptly and that there are regular debates on Committee reports in prime time. These debates are a vital way for Members to press Ministers on key recommendations, and to ensure that commitments which have already been made are being followed up. The Chair of this Committee regularly meets the Leader of the House and the Government Chief Whip to pursue both of these matters.
5. Since September 2021, Lords committees have been able to choose whether to meet in physical, virtual or hybrid form. In practice the majority of members choose to attend in person, but committees usually offer a hybrid option for members who are unable to attend physically and, especially, for witnesses. This has increased the diversity of views informing the committees' work, allowing people to contribute to parliamentary work who would find it difficult to travel to Westminster to attend a meeting in person.
6. During 2022/23, a total of 235 members served on Lords Committees.¹ In addition to the expertise of members, committee work relies on evidence and information provided by a huge range of witnesses. During 2022/23, there were a total of 586 committee meetings. Committees heard from 959 witnesses and received 1829 pieces of evidence.

¹ Including on Joint Committees.

Figure 2: Committee statistics

Committee Chairs' Forum

7. The reforms of 2019–20 included the creation of a Committee Chairs Forum, bringing together all of the investigative and scrutiny Committee Chairs. In 2022/23 the Forum met three times, considering committee report debates, communications and engagement, and advising on the ongoing work on restoration and renewal. The Forum also allowed Chairs to share experiences and lessons learned from the work carried out on their committees.

Liaison Committee

8. The Liaison Committee carried out its annual selection of special inquiry committee inquiries, choosing Integration of primary and community care; Education for 11–16 year olds; Horticultural sector and Use of artificial intelligence in weapon systems.² These committees began work in February 2023 and are scheduled to report in November. We will report on them in next year's review. The Committee continued its work in following up special inquiry committee recommendations with a follow-up letter on the Food, Poverty, Health and the Environment Committee,³ concluding the inquiry into the post-legislative scrutiny committee on the Licensing Act 2003⁴ and

² Liaison Committee, *New committee activity in 2023* (3rd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 104)

³ Letter from the Chair of the Liaison Committee, The Rt Hon Lord Gardiner of Kimble, to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP (15 November 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31600/documents/177455/default/>

⁴ Liaison Committee, 'Licensing Act 2003: follow-up': <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1731/licensing-act-2003-followup/>

commencing an inquiry into the Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities.⁵

Committee staffing

9. The 2019–20 review of committees was followed by an external staffing review which recommended a 10% increase in staffing, to improve support and reduce staff overstretch. Those additional staff are now in place, giving the office a normal complement of 85 staff (dependent on the level of committee activity, etc).
10. The majority of the additional staff are based in the Committees Scrutiny Unit (CSU), which provides cross-cutting support to committee teams, helping to meet the challenge of new demands for committee-led scrutiny. The CSU also supports several ‘non-standard’ committees including joint committees and time-limited or cyclical committee work. It has rapidly become an integral and highly valued part of our support for committees, alongside the team assigned to each committee, and other central staff. We were delighted that this good work was recognised when the CSU won the Parliamentary In-House Team of the year at the 2023 Parliament’s People awards.

5 Liaison Committee, ‘Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities: follow-up’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7311/regenerating-seaside-towns-and-communities-followup/>

CHAPTER 2: PERMANENT (SESSIONAL) COMMITTEES

Introduction

11. The House has established a system of permanent committees with broad cross-cutting remits.⁶ Some have been in existence since the 1970s and some have only been in place for a couple of years, but all have made their mark in their respective policy areas. The committees are appointed under House of Lords Standing Order 63 on a “sessional” basis: that is, their orders of appointment remain in force from one Parliamentary session to the next, until the House orders otherwise.

Built Environment Committee

12. In November 2022 the Built Environment Committee published its second major report: *Public transport in towns and cities*.⁷ This received substantial media coverage, in particular on the committee’s recommendations on prioritising user needs and the risks of a funding cliff edge should the COVID-19 Bus Services Support Grant be ended as planned.⁸ The Committee’s first report, *Meeting housing demand*,⁹ has also continued to have an impact. The report is regularly cited in the media and the Chair wrote an opinion piece for the *House* magazine in March 2023.¹⁰
13. The Committee undertook two short inquiries: on short-term lettings, and infrastructure policymaking and implementation in central government.

6 Each committee’s remit is set out on their Committee homepage, accessible via <https://committees.parliament.uk>

7 Built Environment Committee, *Public transport in towns and cities* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 89)

8 ‘Public transport fare zones should be considered across England’ *Independent* (9 November 2022): <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/england-local-government-association-transport-for-london-government-docklands-light-railway-b2220904.html>, ‘Fund England’s bus network now or lose routes, campaigners warn’ *The Guardian* (15 November 2022): <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2022/nov/14/fund-englands-bus-network-now-or-lose-vital-routes-campaigners-warn>, ‘House of Lords report slams poor bus services and ‘wasteful’ bidding processes’ *Route One* (9 November 2022): <https://www.route-one.net/news/house-of-lords-report-slams-poor-services-and-wasteful-bidding-processes/>, ‘Public transport fare zones should be considered across England - peers’ *Daily Gazette Essex County Standard* (9 November 2022): <https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/national/23111262.public-transport-fare-zones-considered-across-england---peers/> [accessed 19 April 2023]

9 Built Environment Committee, *Meeting housing demand* (1st Report, Session 2021–22, HL Paper 132)

10 Politics Home, ‘There’s no silver bullet to meet growing housing demand’ (9 March 2023): <https://www.politicshome.com/thehouse/article/theres-no-silver-bullet-meet-growing-housing-demand> [accessed 19 April 2023]

These resulted in letters to the Government.¹¹ Following the Government’s response to its work on short-term lettings, the Chair tabled amendments to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill at committee stage.¹² These amendments pursued the Committee’s recommendation that the Government’s proposed registration scheme should be an option for local authorities in England to introduce at their discretion.¹³ In April 2023 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport published a consultation on a tourist accommodation registration scheme, with two of the three options proposing opt-in schemes for local authorities.¹⁴

14. In February 2023 the Committee launched an inquiry into the impact of environmental regulations on development.¹⁵ It continues to correspond with the Government on key topics in earlier reports, including the importance of post-project evaluation.¹⁶

Communications and Digital Committee

15. In July 2022 the Committee published *Licence to change: BBC future funding*.¹⁷ This focused on the BBC’s future and how it should be funded in the context of rising competition and costs. It concluded the licence fee was one option but other funding mechanisms would also be viable. The report called for a major strategy review by the BBC. The corporation’s response confirmed it was undertaking such a review, which would “take some time”.¹⁸

11 Built Environment Committee, ‘Short-term lettings’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6503/shortterm-lettings/> and Letter from Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Civil Society, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, to Lord Moylan, Chair of the Built Environment Committee (27 January 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6503/shortterm-lettings/publications/3/correspondence/>; and Letter from Lord Moylan, Chair of the Built Environment Committee, to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (16 December 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33272/documents/180074/default/> and Built Environment Committee, ‘Infrastructure policymaking and implementation in central government’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7097/infrastructure-policymaking-and-implementation-in-central-government/> and Letter from Lord Moylan, Chair of the Built Environment Committee to Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG, Minister of State, Cabinet Office; and James Cartlidge MP, Exchequer Secretary, HM Treasury (7 February 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33849/documents/185245/default/> and Letter from Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG, Minister of State, Cabinet Office; and James Cartlidge MP, Exchequer Secretary, HM Treasury to Lord Moylan, Chair of the Built Environment Committee (6 April 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/39053/documents/191999/default/>

12 HL Deb, 22 March 2023, [cols 1782–83](#)

13 *Ibid.*

14 Department for Culture, Media and Sport, ‘Open consultation: Consultation on a registration scheme for short-term lets in England’: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-a-registration-scheme-for-short-term-lets-in-england/consultation-on-a-registration-scheme-for-short-term-lets-in-england> [accessed 21 June 2023]

15 Built Environment Committee, ‘The impact of environmental regulations on development (updated 25 May 2023)’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7328/the-impact-of-environmental-regulations-on-development/> [accessed 19 June 2023]

16 Letter from Rt Hon Mark Harper, Secretary of State for Transport, to Lord Moylan, Chair of the Built Environment Committee (23 March 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34604/documents/190513/default/>

17 Communications and Digital Committee, *Licence to change: BBC future funding* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 44)

18 Letter from Tim Davie, Director-General of the BBC, to Baroness Stowell, Chair of the Communications and Digital Committee (21 October 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/30495/documents/175951/default/>

16. In January 2023 the Committee published *At risk: our creative future*, focusing on the future of the creative industries.¹⁹ It called on ministers to unlock the sector’s economic potential by “fixing a policy landscape characterised by incoherence and barriers to success”. Several key recommendations were implemented in the 2023 Budget—for example including the creative industries in the Government’s priority growth areas; making tax reliefs internationally competitive; and changing plans to overhaul the text and data mining regime. The inquiry promoted public debate when it invited the first artificial intelligence robot artist to provide evidence to a Lords Committee.²⁰
17. The Committee held evidence sessions on the Online Safety Bill, which resulted in several amendments being tabled by the Chair.²¹ The Committee continued to be a leading voice calling for the Digital Markets, Consumer and Competition Bill to be introduced.
18. The Committee continued its scrutiny of Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation (SLAPPs).²² In January 2023 the Committee raised concerns with ministers that HM Treasury had facilitated a SLAPP case brought by a sanctioned individual, Yevgeny Prigozhin.²³ The Government subsequently concluded it would “take a presumption that legal fees relating to defamation and similar cases will be rejected”.²⁴ The Committee also called for tougher regulatory powers and changes to money laundering regulations.²⁵ The Chair tabled related amendments to the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill.²⁶

Constitution Committee

19. The Committee published a major report on the roles of the Lord Chancellor and the Law Officers in January 2023.²⁷ It published 14 legislative scrutiny reports on Government bills and held annual evidence sessions with the

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- 19 Communications and Digital Committee, *At risk: our creative future* (2nd Report, Session 2022–23 HL Paper 125)
 - 20 Communications and Digital Committee, ‘Formal meeting (oral evidence session): A creative future’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/event/14659/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/>
 - 21 Oral evidence taken before the Communications and Digital Committee, inquiry on Online Safety Bill, 6 December 2022 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–12](#) and 25 January 2023 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–6](#)
 - 22 Oral evidence taken before the Communications and Digital Committee, inquiry on Lawfare and free speech, 24 January 2023 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–20](#)
 - 23 Letter from Baroness Stowell, Chair of the Communications and Digital Committee to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (26 January 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33702/documents/184140/default/>
 - 24 Written Statement [UIN HLWS686](#) (Session 2022–23)
 - 25 Letter from Baroness Stowell, Chair of the Communications and Digital Committee, to the Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, and the Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (26 January 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33703/documents/184141/default/>
 - 26 Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill, Fifth Marshalled List of Amendments to be moved in Grant Committee (25 April 2023) pp 11–12: <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50846/documents/3339>, also see HL Deb, 25 April 2023, [cols 401–425GC](#)
 - 27 Constitution Committee, *The roles of the Lord Chancellor and the Law Officers* (9th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 118)

President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court,²⁸ the Lord Chief Justice²⁹ and the Lord Chancellor.³⁰

20. The Committee drew attention to provision in the National Security Bill that had implications for parliamentary privilege.³¹ This was removed by a Government amendment at report stage.³²
21. On the Public Order Bill, the Committee recommended that “the meaning of ‘serious disruption’, wherever it is used, should be clarified in the Bill in a proportionate way.”³³ This gave rise to a series of amendments in the name of Lord Hope of Craighead, a member of the Committee, which were supported by the Government.³⁴ Other amendments, based on the Committee’s recommendations about the definition of “reasonable excuse” in the Bill were also supported by the Government.³⁵ While these amendments were not initially agreed by the House, a similar Government amendment on “serious disruption” was agreed in the House of Commons and in the Lords.³⁶
22. A Committee recommendation that “freedom of speech” should be defined in the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill more clearly by reference to Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights³⁷ was reflected in a Government amendment and agreed by the House.³⁸
23. A Committee recommendation in its January 2022 report, *Respect and Co-operation: Building a Stronger Union for the 21st century*³⁹ to improve the information provided to the House on legislative consent from the devolved legislatures was implemented by the Procedure and Privileges Committee.⁴⁰
24. In September 2022 the Independent Commission on the use of UK Public Health Emergency Powers was established, explicitly on the basis of one of the Committee’s recommendations in *COVID-19 and the use and scrutiny of emergency powers*.⁴¹

28 Oral evidence taken before the Constitution Committee, annual evidence session with the President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court, 6 April 2022 (Session 2021–22) [QQ 1–23](#) (Lord Reed of Allermuir and Lord Hodge)

29 Oral evidence taken before the Constitution Committee, annual evidence session with the Lord Chief Justice, 18 May 2022 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–16](#) (Lord Burnett of Maldon)

30 Oral evidence taken before the Constitution Committee, annual evidence session with the Lord Chancellor, 1 March 2023 (Session 2022–23), [QQ 1–26](#) (Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP)

31 Constitution Committee, *National Security Bill* (10th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 119), para 21

32 Amendment 119 at report stage. A government amendment at committee stage, with similar implications, was also further amended at report stage by amendment 48. See HL Deb, 1 March 2023, [cols 292 and 301](#) and HL Deb, 7 March 2023, [col 710](#)

33 Constitution Committee, *Public Order Bill* (7th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 95), para 11

34 See HL Deb, 30 January 2023, [col 437](#)

35 Constitution Committee, *Public Order Bill* (7th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 95), para 14; HL Deb, 30 January 2023, [cols 464–479](#)

36 See HL Deb, 14 March 2023, [cols 1196–1214](#).

37 Constitution Committee, *Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill* (3rd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 59), para 8

38 Amendment 7 at report stage. See HL Deb, 7 December 2022, [cols 182–188 and 198](#).

39 Constitution Committee, *Respect and Co-operation: Building a Stronger Union for the 21st century* (10th Report, Session 2021–22, HL Paper 142), para 138

40 Procedure and Privileges Committee, *Legislative consent process Amendments to the Companion relating to the Restoration and Renewal programme* (4th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 161), paras 1–5

41 Constitution Committee, *COVID-19 and the use and scrutiny of emergency powers* (3rd Report, Session 2019–21, HL Paper 15), para 209; Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, ‘Independent Commission on UK Public Health Emergency Powers’: <https://binghamcentre.biicl.org/independent-commission-on-uk-public-health-emergency-powers> [accessed 25 April 2023]

Economic Affairs Committee

25. The Economic Affairs Committee published its report *Investing in energy: price, security, and the transition to net zero* in July 2022.⁴² The Committee identified a number of issues where immediate action is needed in order for the Government to meet its objective to achieve net zero by 2050. It recommended a series of immediate steps to be taken to make a difference to energy security and affordability over the next three to five years.⁴³
26. The Committee published *Where have all the workers gone?* in December 2022.⁴⁴ It concluded that the biggest contributor to a sharp increase in economic inactivity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic has been an increase in early retirement.⁴⁵ The Committee received extensive media coverage for its report, generating over 450 pieces in broadcast, print and online media. Correspondence with the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of this inquiry resulted in the OBR revising its forecasts on specific health-related spending. It also changed the presentation of certain data more accurately to reflect the effect of labour supply changes and to ensure greater clarity.⁴⁶
27. The Committee held its annual oral evidence session with the Governor of the Bank of England in November 2022⁴⁷ and its annual session with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 21 March 2023.⁴⁸
28. In March 2023 the Committee launched a new inquiry into the Bank of England, looking into how operational independence has worked since 1997.⁴⁹

Finance Bill Sub-Committee

29. The Finance Bill Sub-Committee published its report, *Research and Development Tax Relief and Expenditure Credit*, on 31 January 2023. The report considered proposals published in the draft Finance Bill on 20 July 2022.⁵⁰ The Sub-Committee received over 50 written evidence submissions including from business organisations and representatives and tax professionals. The Sub-Committee also held four oral evidence sessions including with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Victoria Atkins MP, and HMRC officials.⁵¹

42 Economic Affairs Committee, *Investing in energy: price, security, and the transition to net zero* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 49)

43 *Ibid.*

44 Economic Affairs Committee, *Where have all the workers gone?* (2nd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 115)

45 *Ibid.*

46 Letter from Richard Hughes, Chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility, to Lord Bridges of Headley, Chair of the Economic Affairs Committee (25 November 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31754/documents/179916/default/>

47 Oral evidence taken before the Economic Affairs Committee, annual scrutiny session with the Governor of the Bank of England, 29 November 2022 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–33](#) (Andrew Bailey)

48 Oral evidence taken before the Economic Affairs Committee, annual scrutiny session with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, 21 March 2023 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–20](#) (Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP)

49 Economic Affairs Committee, ‘The Bank of England: how is independence working? Economic Affairs Committee launches inquiry’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/175/economic-affairs-committee/news/186474/the-bank-of-england-how-is-independence-working-economic-affairs-committee-launches-inquiry/>

50 Economic Affairs Committee, *Research and development tax relief and expenditure credit* (3rd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 137)

51 Oral evidence taken before the Finance Bill Sub-Committee, inquiry into the Draft Finance Bill 2022–23, 21 November 2022 (Session 2022–23), [QQ 64–85](#) (Victoria Atkins MP, Nicole Newbury, Matthew Henty, Tessa Robins)

30. The Sub-Committee’s overarching finding was that the Government should continue to look for ways in which Research and Development (R&D) relief can be improved while ensuring value for the taxpayer. In particular, the Sub-Committee drew attention to the increasing cost of fraud and error as well as difficulties faced by firms in understanding what qualified for R&D relief and outdated HMRC guidance.
31. The Government’s response accepted in full 10 of the Sub-Committee’s 26 recommendations, including the recommendation to review HMRC’s resources and the recommendation for HMRC to undertake a comprehensive review of its guidance. The Government accepted a further 12 recommendations in part.⁵²

Environment and Climate Change Committee

32. The Environment and Climate Change Committee published its report, *In our hands: behaviour change for climate and environmental goals*, on 12 October 2022.⁵³ The report received widespread media coverage from national and international outlets, and a video summarising the report’s findings received over 25,000 views on the Committee’s Twitter feed.⁵⁴
33. The Committee launched an inquiry into the Government’s Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) in October 2022.⁵⁵ As part of this inquiry, the Committee heard from a range of stakeholders including energy companies, regulators, advisory services and consumers who had used the BUS to install heat pumps in their homes. To conclude this inquiry, the Committee sent a summative letter to the Government on 22 February 2023.⁵⁶ The letter received extensive media coverage. Additionally, on the day of publication Adrian Chiles hosted a phone-in on BBC Radio 5 Live to discuss the letter. Shortly after the Committee sent its letter, the Government announced a three-year extension to the BUS, from 2025 to 2028.⁵⁷
34. The Committee held two concurrent meetings with the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee as part of its inquiry into COP15, the international biodiversity conference.
35. The Committee has established a new convention of holding one-off introductory sessions with new Secretaries of State to discuss their priorities in the role, most recently Defra Secretary of State the Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP⁵⁸ and Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, the

52 HM Treasury, *House of Lords Economic Affairs Finance Bill Sub Committee: Research and Development Tax Relief and Expenditure Credit (HL Paper 137) Government Response* (March 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/38977/documents/191609/default/>

53 Environment and Climate Change Committee, *In our hands: behaviour change for climate and environmental goals* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 64)

54 Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee (@HLEnviroClimate), tweet on 24 October 2022: <https://twitter.com/HLEnviroClimate/status/1580113664593387520> [accessed 19 June 2023]

55 Environment and Climate Change Committee, ‘Boiler Upgrade System’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6858/boiler-upgrade-scheme/>

56 Letter to Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, from Baroness Parminter, Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee (22 February 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34006/documents/187196/default/>

57 HM Government, *Powering Up Britain The Net Zero Growth Plan* (March 2023) p58: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1147457/powering-up-britain-net-zero-growth-plan.pdf [accessed 10 May 2023]

58 Oral evidence taken before the Environment and Climate Change Committee on 30 November 2022 (Session 2022–23), [QQ 1–17](#) (Thérèse Coffey MP)

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP.⁵⁹ Additionally, the Committee held a one-off evidence session with former Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney to discuss greening the financial sector,⁶⁰ and with Chair of the Office for Environmental Protection Dame Glenys Stacey to scrutinise governance structures in climate policy.⁶¹

36. The Committee plans to relaunch its pioneering youth engagement programme, with applications expected to open in May 2023.

European Affairs Committee

37. The European Affairs Committee has continued to fulfil its remit⁶² during an eventful year for UK–EU relations. The Committee has corresponded with the Government on a wide range of matters including: the exchange of criminal data; movement of creative professionals; Horizon Europe; North Seas Energy Cooperation; and the nascent European Political Community.⁶³
38. In June, the Committee published its report on the *UK-EU relationship in Financial Services*⁶⁴ and, in December, having agreed with the Government arrangements for scrutiny of EU related documents, published its report *Future Scrutiny Arrangements for EU-Related Business*.⁶⁵ In July 2022, the Committee began a major inquiry into the UK–EU relationship.⁶⁶ This covered the overall political relationship, foreign policy and defence cooperation, energy security and climate change, and mobility of people. The Committee heard from 43 witnesses and received 58 written responses. The report was published at the end of April 2023.⁶⁷
39. The Committee continues to monitor actively the operation of the Citizens’ Rights aspect of the Withdrawal Agreement (WA). In January, following the decision of the High Court that the Government’s Settlement Scheme for EU citizens in the UK was implemented unlawfully,⁶⁸ the Committee wrote to the Government to express its concerns on behalf of the estimated 2 million placed into immediate legal uncertainty by the Government’s

59 Oral evidence taken before the Environment and Climate Change Committee on 25 April 2023 (Session 2022–23), [QQ 1–25](#) (Grant Shapps MP)

60 Oral evidence taken before the Environment and Climate Change Committee on 15 March 2023 (Session 2022–23), [QQ 1–14](#) (Mark Carney)

61 Oral evidence taken before the Environment and Climate Change Committee on 16 November 2022 (Session 2022–23), [QQ 1–16](#) (Dame Glenys Stacey)

62 HL Deb, 12 May 2022, [cols 107–108](#)

63 All European Affairs Committee correspondence with the Government is published regularly. European Affairs Committee ‘Correspondence with Ministers’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/516/european-affairs-committee/content/156757/correspondence-with-ministers/>

64 European Affairs Committee, *The UK-EU relationship in financial Services* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 21). The Government responded on 22 October 2022. HM Government, *Government Response to The House of Lords’ European Affairs Committee’s Report The UK-EU Relationship in Financial Services* (22 October 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/30259/documents/175078/default/>

65 There will be an interim review in July, followed by a full review after two years or at the end of this Parliament (whichever is sooner). European Affairs Committee, *Future Scrutiny Arrangements for EU-Related Business* (3rd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 92)

66 The Committee published the call for evidence in July. European Affairs Committee, ‘Call for evidence launched on the UK-EU relationship’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/516/european-affairs-committee/news/172263/call-for-evidence-launched-on-the-ukeu-relationship/>

67 European Affairs Committee, *The future UK-EU relationship* (4th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 184)

68 Administrative Court *R v the Independent Monitoring Authority and the Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2022] EWHC 3274 (Admin)

failure to implement the WA legally. The Committee is carrying out follow up evidence sessions in May 2023.

Interparliamentary cooperation

40. The Committee hosted eight visiting delegations, including the European Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag and the Houses of the Oireachtas EU Affairs Committee. Members also attended a meeting with the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), hosted by the Justice and Home Affairs Committee, and jointly hosted the European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) with Members of the Economic Affairs Committee. The Committee also undertook visits to Brussels, Berlin, the Welsh Senedd and the Scottish Parliament. The Chair has continued to pursue diplomatic engagements, and over the last year has met with around 18 Ambassadors and attended approximately 12 receptions and events as well as holding meetings with other relevant stakeholders.⁶⁹

Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland

41. In July 2022, the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland published its detailed follow-up report on the socio-economic and political impact of the Protocol.⁷⁰ The report drew on evidence from the Government, business representatives, trade organisations, academics, legal experts, civic society representatives, and the five largest parties in the Northern Ireland Assembly. The report received extensive coverage in the national media, in Northern Ireland, Ireland and international publications.
42. In the autumn of 2022, the Sub-Committee undertook an inquiry into the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill then before the House. The Sub-Committee held 11 evidence sessions and received 40 written submissions from a range of stakeholders, including in the context of a visit to Newry and Belfast in October 2022. This visit received widespread media coverage in Northern Ireland and beyond. The Sub-Committee set out its findings in a 23-page letter to the Foreign Secretary in November 2022.⁷¹
43. In January and February 2023, the Sub-Committee scrutinised the provision of medicines to Northern Ireland under the Protocol by taking evidence from key pharmaceutical industry representatives and experts. In its letter to the Foreign Secretary setting out its findings,⁷² the Sub-Committee highlighted important outstanding issues that remained to be resolved, which were subsequently identified and addressed in the Windsor Framework agreement. The Chair conducted an interview on the Sub-Committee's findings for

⁶⁹ See section on Interparliamentary engagement at paragraph 116.

⁷⁰ European Affairs Committee, *Report from the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland: Follow-up report* (2nd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 57)

⁷¹ Letter from Lord Jay of Ewelme, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (22 November 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31662/documents/177968/default/>

⁷² Letter from Lord Jay of Ewelme, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (24 February 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34082/documents/187510/default/>

BBC News,⁷³ and its work was featured in print media in the run-up to the announcement of the Windsor Framework agreement.⁷⁴

44. The Sub-Committee launched an inquiry into the Windsor Framework in March 2023. The Sub-Committee has issued a call for evidence⁷⁵ and begun taking oral evidence. The Sub-Committee intends to set out its findings ahead of the summer recess.
45. The Sub-Committee has continued its scrutiny of new, amending and replacement EU legislation applying to Northern Ireland under the Protocol. During the 2022–23 session, the Sub-Committee has written a number of letters to Government Ministers and received replies on 45 EU legislative proposals.⁷⁶
46. The Sub-Committee has also examined the implications of Government legislation before the House for Northern Ireland in the context of the Protocol, including the Nationality and Borders Bill/Act,⁷⁷ the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill,⁷⁸ the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill,⁷⁹ and the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill itself.

Industry and Regulators Committee

47. The Industry and Regulators Committee engaged in four substantial pieces of work in 2022/23, producing one report and two letters to the Government. In May 2022 the Committee launched an inquiry into the work of Ofwat, the economic regulator for water in England and Wales. It published its report *The affluent and the effluent: cleaning up failures in water and sewage regulation* in March 2023.⁸⁰ The report covered areas including regulatory co-ordination, company and project financing, storm overflows, and future supply. It contributed to the public debate on water quality and the report received extensive print, radio, and television coverage, including from *The*

73 BBC, 'BBC Radio Ulster': <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001jbss>

74 For example 'Brexit: Medicine supply issues 'due to Northern Ireland Protocol'', *BBC News* (24 February 2023): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-64757831> [accessed 19 May 2023] and 'British government warned over granting DUP a veto as protocol deal edges closer', *The Irish News* (25 February 2023): <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2023/02/25/news/british-government-warned-over-granting-dup-a-veto-as-protocol-deal-edges-closer-3088980/> [accessed 19 May 2023]

75 Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland 'New inquiry and call for evidence launched on the Windsor Framework' (17 March 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7372/windsor-framework/news/194239/new-inquiry-and-call-for-evidence-launched-on-the-windsor-framework/>

76 All Sub-Committee correspondence with the Government is published regularly. Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, 'Correspondence with Ministers': <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/520/protocol-on-irelandnorthern-ireland-subcommittee/news/170932/correspondence-with-ministers/>

77 Letter from Lord Jay of Ewelme, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Minister of State for Immigration (24 March 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34565/documents/190244/default/>

78 Letter from Lord Jay of Ewelme, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to Lord Caine, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office (1 December 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31836/documents/178954/default/>

79 Letter from Lord Jay of Ewelme, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/ Northern Ireland to Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch, Secretary of State for Business and Trade (9 February 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33943/documents/186051/default/>

80 Industry and Regulators Committee, *The affluent and the effluent: cleaning up failures in water and sewage regulation* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 166)

Times,⁸¹ *Financial Times*,⁸² BBC,⁸³ and ITV,⁸⁴ as well as significant Twitter engagement.⁸⁵

48. In spring 2022, the Committee held a short inquiry into the regulation of commercial insurance and reinsurance provided through the London Market. The Committee wrote to John Glen MP, then Economic Secretary to the Treasury, with recommendations concerning the “apparently inflexible application of the regulatory framework”.⁸⁶ The Government’s response welcomed many of the recommendations.⁸⁷
49. Following financial markets turbulence in September 2022, the Committee examined the use of liability driven investments (LDI) by pension funds. It held two public sessions and subsequently wrote to Andrew Griffith MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, and Laura Trott MP, Minister for Pensions.⁸⁸ The Committee also heard evidence from the Ministers in a joint public session with the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee in March 2023. The Minister for Pensions indicated that the Government would take into account the Committee’s recommendations in forthcoming regulations.⁸⁹
50. The Committee launched an inquiry into the Office for Students, the English higher education regulator, in March 2023, and plans to take evidence until May 2023.⁹⁰

International Agreements Committee

51. In May 2022, the Government implemented the International Agreements Committee’s recommendation to publish formal commitments on

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- 81 Adam Vaughan, ‘We’re up sewage creek but water firms have a paddle, says peer’, *The Times* (22 March 2023): <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ofwat-water-clean-it-up-86ggq3d7v> [accessed 3 April 2023]
- 82 Camilla Hodgson, ‘UK water industry needs tougher policing, says Lords report’ *Financial Times* (22 March 2023): available at <https://www.ft.com/content/25belfcf-84c9-439f-9aaa-991c81322edb> [accessed 3 April 2023]
- 83 Jonah Fisher, ‘Ending sewage dumping will mean higher water bills—report’, *BBC News* (22 March 2023): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-65028971> [accessed 3 April 2023], BBC Radio 4 Today, 22 March 2023: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001k7l2> [accessed 3 April 2023], also coverage on BBC Radio 5 and BBC Radio Ulster, and BBC Breakfast News.
- 84 Good Morning Britain, ‘Feargal Sharkey Discusses ‘Damning’ New Water Report’ (22 March 2023): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7JXPWACq9A> [accessed 3 April 2023]
- 85 See for example: Feargal Sharkey (@feargal_sharkey), tweet on 22 March 2023: https://twitter.com/Feargal_Sharkey/status/1638439987757604867 [accessed 3 April 2023], Feargal Sharkey (@feargal_sharkey), tweet on 23 March 2023: https://twitter.com/Feargal_Sharkey/status/1638803511189155855 [accessed 3 April 2023], Feargal Sharkey (@feargal_sharkey), tweet on 26 March 2023: https://twitter.com/Feargal_Sharkey/status/1639899677301563392 [accessed 3 April 2023].
- 86 Letter from Lord Hollick, Chair of the Industry and Regulators Committee, to John Glen MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury (6 April 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/9596/documents/162439/default/>
- 87 Letter from John Glen MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, to Lord Hollick, Chair of the Industry and Regulators Committee (28 April 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22600/documents/166303/default/>
- 88 Letter from Lord Hollick, Chair of the Industry and Regulators Committee, to Andrew Griffith MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, and Laura Trott MP, Minister for Pensions (7 February 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33855/documents/185115/default/>
- 89 Oral evidence taken before the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee, inquiry into defined benefit pensions with liability driven investment, 22 March 2023 (Session 2022–23), Q 304 (Laura Trott MP)
- 90 Industry and Regulators Committee, ‘The work of the Office for Students’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7347/the-work-of-the-office-for-students/>

parliamentary scrutiny of trade agreements through an exchange of letters.⁹¹ These commitments go beyond the requirements within the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRAG) and include a promise to ensure the Committee has reasonable time to scrutinise new free trade agreements (FTAs) before they are laid under CRAG.

52. The Committee published a report on the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).⁹² The report questioned the justification for not making the agreement as a full treaty, which reduced the opportunity for Parliamentary scrutiny. The report was covered in the media⁹³ which helped to influence public debate.
53. The Committee has also continued scrutiny of agreements laid under CRAG, including the UK's ratification of the Istanbul convention, where it drew attention to a number of opt-outs the Government had entered into.⁹⁴ It also reported on free trade agreements concluded with Australia⁹⁵ and New Zealand,⁹⁶ which were welcomed with only small reservations.
54. The Committee has scrutinised other aspects of trade negotiations, including reporting in July 2022 on the Government's objectives for the UK-India FTA, warning the Government not to rush a deal.⁹⁷
55. Finally, in March 2023 the Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade to make the case for a published trade policy framework.⁹⁸ This letter followed a series of private roundtables with trade experts and other stakeholders in late 2022.

International Relations and Defence Committee

56. The International Relations and Defence Committee decided to launch an inquiry into the UK Government's defence policy shortly before Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. While that conflict was not part of the initial rationale for the inquiry, it quickly became an important

91 Exchange of letters between Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town, Chair of the International Agreements Committee and Lord Grimstone of Boscobel Kt, the then Minister for Investment (19 May 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22312/documents/164995/default/>

92 International Agreements Committee, *Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Rwanda for the provision of an asylum partnership arrangement* (7th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 71)

93 See ITV News, 'Rwanda policy introduction 'unacceptable' and 'didn't legally enforce safeguards on human rights': <https://www.itv.com/news/2022-10-17/rwanda-policy-introduction-unacceptable-and-didnt-safeguard-human-rights> [accessed 18 May 2023] and Public Law Project, 'Rwanda policy avoided Parliamentary scrutiny: Lords Committee', (18 October 2022: <https://publiclawproject.org.uk/latest/rwanda-policy-avoided-parliamentary-scrutiny-lords-committee/> [accessed 18 May 2023].

94 International Agreements Committee, *Scrutiny of international agreements: Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence* (2nd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 24)

95 International Agreements Committee, 'UK-Australia free trade agreement welcomed, but a published trade policy is needed' (23 June 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/448/international-agreements-committee/news/171638/australia-free-trade-agreement-welcomed-but-a-published-trade-policy-is-needed/>

96 International Agreements Committee, 'Impact of UK-New Zealand FTA likely to be positive, if limited, says Lords committee' (4 November 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/448/international-agreements-committee/news/174160/impact-of-uknew-zealand-fta-likely-to-be-positive-if-limited-says-lords-committee/>

97 International Agreements Committee, *UK-India free trade agreement: Scrutiny of the Government's Negotiating Objectives* (6th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 53)

98 Letter from Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town, Chair of the International Agreements Committee to Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, Secretary of State for Business and Trade (23 March 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34536/documents/190085/default/>

consideration throughout, leading to the conclusion that the Government must build greater resilience into its armament stocks, supply chains and industrial capacity.⁹⁹

57. To help shape its understanding of defence policy issues, the Committee visited HM Naval Base Clyde, the UK Maritime Component Command in Bahrain and the Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar.
58. The inquiry's report, *UK defence policy: from aspiration to reality*, was published on 12 January 2023 and put forward 64 conclusions and recommendations.¹⁰⁰ The report and related twitter activity contributed to the public debate. The report performed well on social media, with over 27,000 views of related tweets.¹⁰¹ Although the Committee has received an interim response from the Government,¹⁰² it is now awaiting the publication of the Defence Command Paper review to assess the extent to which the Committee's recommendations have been accepted.
59. The report also raised concerns about the challenges in relations with France. In March of this year, the new Chair of the Committee, the Rt Hon Lord Ashton of Hyde, published a joint op-ed with the Chair of the Commons' Defence Committee and the chairs of the defence committees of the French Parliament, announcing the revival of the quadripartite meetings of the committees—paused since October 2020—to monitor the implementation of the Lancaster House defence co-operation agreements.¹⁰³
60. On 30 March 2023, the Committee launched its next inquiry into the UK's strategic and diplomatic interests in the Arctic, and expects to report by the end of the year.¹⁰⁴

Justice and Home Affairs Committee

61. The Justice and Home Affairs Committee's most significant piece of work was its inquiry into family migration to the UK. The Committee engaged extensively with individuals who had experience of navigating the system, and held an oral evidence session with two refugees whose evidence was

99 International Relations and Defence Committee, *UK defence policy: from aspiration to reality* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 124)

100 *Ibid.*

101 See for example International Relations & Defence Committee (@LordsIRCom), tweet on 13 January 2023: <https://twitter.com/LordsIRCom/status/1613833475831775233> [accessed 19 June 2023]

102 Ministry of Defence, *Government Response to the International Relations and Defence Committee's Report "UK defence policy: from aspiration to reality?"* (9 March 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34336/documents/189159/default/>

103 The Rt Hon Lord Ashton of Hyde, Tobias Ellwood MP, Thomas Gassilloud, Christian Cambon, 'Britain and France must now unite to save Ukraine and the rules-based order', *The Telegraph* (9 March 2023): <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/03/09/britain-france-must-now-unite-save-ukraine-rules-based-order/> [accessed 21 April 2023]. The Rt Hon Lord Ashton of Hyde, Tobias Ellwood MP, Thomas Gassilloud, Christian Cambon, 'Vers une nouvelle étape de la coopération franco-britannique en matière de défense', *Le Journal du Dimanche* (9 March 2023): <https://www.lejdd.fr/international/tribune-vers-une-nouvelle-etape-de-la-cooperation-franco-britannique-en-matiere-de-defense-133419> [accessed 21 April 2023].

104 International Relations and Defence Committee, 'Inquiry into the Arctic launched by Lords Committee': <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/360/international-relations-and-defence-committee/news/194546/inquiry-into-the-arctic-launched-by-lords-committee/>

published on an anonymous basis.¹⁰⁵ Its report, *All families matter: An inquiry into family migration*, was published on 28 February 2023.¹⁰⁶

62. The Committee also engaged with members of the public who had taken the Life in the UK Test, during its inquiry which continued in the early part of the year.¹⁰⁷ It set out its key conclusions and recommendations in a letter to the then Minister for Safe and Legal Migration, published in June 2022.¹⁰⁸ The inquiry received considerable coverage in the media.¹⁰⁹
63. The Committee held oral evidence sessions with the Home Secretary in December 2022¹¹⁰ and the then Lord Chancellor, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Justice in March 2023¹¹¹ to scrutinise the policies of their respective departments. The Committee also followed up on work of its previous inquiry on new technologies in the justice system¹¹², which was debated in Grand Committee in November 2022.¹¹³ The Home Office tasked its Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group to engage with the Committee's recommendations.¹¹⁴ Members of the Committee attended a workshop hosted by the Alan Turing Institute to discuss the report.¹¹⁵
64. The Committee hosted a delegation from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs in the European Parliament and discussed matters including the UK's data protection regime.¹¹⁶ In March 2023, the Committee launched a short inquiry to follow up on the report of the EU Security and Justice Sub-Committee of the former EU Select Committee¹¹⁷,

105 Oral evidence taken before the Justice and Home Affairs Committee, inquiry on family migration, on 25 October 2022 (Session 2022–23), [QQ 67–75](#) (Witness 1 and Witness 2)

106 Justice and Home Affairs Committee, *All families matter: An inquiry into family migration* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 144)

107 Justice and Home Affairs Committee, *Personal experience of individuals taking the Life in the UK Test—Summary of private briefing held on 26 April 2022* (12 May 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22192/documents/164582/default/>

108 Letter from Baroness Hamwee, Chair of the Justice and Home Affairs Committee to Kevin Foster MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Safe and Legal Migration) (28 June 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22850/documents/167769/default/>

109 For example see 'Home Office must urgently fix 'joke' UK citizenship test, committee says', *Independent* (30 June 2022): <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/life-in-the-uk-citizenship-test-home-office-b2112337.html> [accessed 18 May 2023] and 'Citizenship test on Empire and beer leaves bitter taste', *The Times* (30 June 2022): <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/citizenship-test-on-empire-and-beer-leaves-bitter-taste-20pjzrkt>. [accessed on 18 May 2023].

110 Oral evidence taken before the Justice and Home Affairs Committee, 21 December 2022 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–16](#) (Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP and Matthew Rycroft)

111 Oral evidence taken before the Justice and Home Affairs Committee, 15 March 2023 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–19](#) (Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP)

112 Justice and Home Affairs Committee, *Technology rules? The advent of new technologies in the justice system* (1st report, Session 2021–22, HL Paper 180)

113 HL Deb, 28 November 2022, [cols 383GC–414GC](#)

114 See Home Office, 'Commissioning letter to the Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group setting out work priorities for May 2022 to April 2023' (11 November 2022): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biometrics-and-forensics-ethics-group-commission-2022-to-2023/commissioning-letter-to-the-biometrics-and-forensics-ethics-group-20222023> [accessed 21 April 2023].

115 Justice and Home Affairs Committee, *Meeting note following a workshop held on 22 November 2022 hosted by the Alan Turing Institute AI Programme to discuss the findings and recommendations from the new technologies in the justice system report by the Justice and Home Affairs Committee* (24 November 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34573/documents/190386/default/>

116 Letter from Baroness Hamwee, Chair of the Justice and Home Affairs Committee to Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, European Parliament (18 November 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31689/documents/178003/default/>

117 European Union Committee, *Beyond Brexit: policing, law enforcement and security* (25th report, Session 2019–21, HL Paper 250)

examining the arrangements introduced by Part Three of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA).

Public Services Committee

65. The Public Services Committee undertook three substantive inquiries in the past financial year: ‘Designing a public services workforce fit for the future’;¹¹⁸ ‘Access to emergency services’;¹¹⁹ and ‘Review of the Children’s social care implementation strategy and family hubs rollout’.¹²⁰
66. The Committee’s report *Emergency healthcare: a national emergency* called for a higher number of clinicians available on the NHS non-emergency number 111.¹²¹ This would allow a clinical judgement to be taken on a caller, reducing the number sent to emergency departments (EDs) from an abundance of caution. The report recommended the monthly publication of a key figure on 12-hour waiting times in EDs, to allow the full scale of the waiting times to be accurately reflected.¹²² Both these recommendations formed part of the Government’s *Delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency care services*.¹²³ The delivery plan also goes some way towards delivering the “bold new operating model” the report recommended.¹²⁴ The Committee’s report was well received by stakeholders with NHS Providers, for example, saying “The Committee’s diagnosis is spot on”.¹²⁵
67. In other work, the Committee has continued to monitor the implications of data sharing regulations and of financial announcements for public services. In May 2022 evidence was taken from Neil O’Brien MP, the then-Minister for Levelling Up. The Committee scrutinised the Government’s progress on levelling-up and discussed the importance of evaluation of policies at the outset.¹²⁶ The Committee also continued its work on access to public

118 Public Services Committee, *Fit for the future? Rethinking the public services workforce* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 48)

119 Public Services Committee, *Emergency healthcare: a national emergency* (2nd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 130)

120 Public Services Committee, ‘Review of the Children’s social care implementation strategy and family hubs rollout’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7341/review-of-the-childrens-social-care-implementation-strategy-and-family-hubs-rollout/> [accessed 19 April 2023]

121 Public Services Committee, *Emergency healthcare: a national emergency* (2nd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 130), para 103

122 *Ibid.*, para 84

123 Department of Health & Social Care and NHS England, *Delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency care services* (January 2023), pp 2, 44: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/B2034-delivery-plan-for-recovering-urgent-and-emergency-care-services.pdf> [accessed 19 April 2023]

124 Public Services Committee, *Emergency healthcare: a national emergency* (2nd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 130), para 78

125 NHS Providers (@NHSPProviders), tweet on 19 January 2023: <https://twitter.com/NHSPProviders/status/1616125995412602886> [accessed 19 June 2023]

126 Oral evidence taken before the Public Services Committee, one-off follow-up session into inquiry on Levelling up and public services, 25 May 2022 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 1–9](#) (Neil O’Brien MP, Will Garton)

services for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities through ongoing correspondence.¹²⁷

Science and Technology Committee

68. The Science and Technology Committee published “*Science and technology superpower*”: *more than a slogan?* in August 2022.¹²⁸ The report concluded that the Government should better define its science and technology strategy, set out what it wants to achieve in its priority areas and consolidate existing strategies.
69. The Committee wrote to the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation following an inquiry in autumn 2022 into whether the UK has a sufficiently skilled workforce to become a “science and technology superpower”.¹²⁹ The Committee recommended reforms to the visa system, enhancements to make apprenticeships more flexible, policies to improve the recruitment and retention of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers and initiatives to address academic career precarity.
70. The Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care after an inquiry in late 2022 into clinical academics in the NHS.¹³⁰ The Committee recommended that the Government urgently addresses disincentives to clinical academia as a career path, the creation of mentorship schemes and the development of metrics for research performance to be reported by integrated care boards. This letter received prominent coverage in the *Financial Times*.¹³¹
71. The Committee began an inquiry into the effects of artificial light and noise on human health in January 2023.¹³² The report is expected to be published in summer 2023.

127 As part of this correspondence a Minister’s letter appeared to suggest that tailoring the delivery of public services to meet the needs of different groups would breach equality law. Following further correspondence, the Government clarified this point. See Letter from Paul Scully MP, Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to Rt Hon Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top, former Chair of the Public Services Committee (12 July 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/23156/documents/169407/default/>; and Letter from Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety, to the Rt Hon Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top, the then Chair of the Public Services Committee (28 March 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34689/documents/190871/default/>

128 Science and Technology Committee, “*Science and technology superpower*”: *more than a slogan?* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 47)

129 Letter from Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Chair of the Science and Technology Committee, to George Freeman MP, Minister of State (Minister for Science, Research and Innovation) at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (15 December 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33254/documents/179987/default/>

130 Letter from Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Chair of the Science and Technology Committee, to the Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care at the Department for Health and Social Care (26 January 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33678/documents/184035/default/>

131 ‘Lack of clinical academics threatens NHS research and teaching, say peers’ *The Financial Times* (26 January 2023): available at <https://www.ft.com/content/b5b9fe7f-7169-4ae6-a97b-cd98fe346ffe> [accessed 18 May 2023]

132 Science and Technology Committee, ‘The effects of artificial light and noise on human health’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7256/the-effects-of-artificial-light-and-noise-on-human-health/>

CHAPTER 3: SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEES

Introduction

72. The House appoints special inquiry committees on the basis of proposals from members, which are assessed by the Liaison Committee. This allows the House to work flexibly, directing committee work to matters of current concern, in inquiries which usually take around ten months to complete. This approach also increases the number of members who are able to participate in committee work. This Chapter summarises the work of the four special inquiry committees during 2022. It then outlines the work of the Liaison Committee in following up the recommendations of previous special inquiries, ensuring the Government has fulfilled its commitments. Finally, there is an assessment of another time-limited committee, on Common Frameworks.

Adult Social Care Committee

73. The Committee published its report *A “gloriously ordinary life”: Spotlight on adult social care* in December 2022.¹³³ An Easy Read version was also published.¹³⁴ During the inquiry, the Committee took an inclusive approach to witnesses, making sure to hear from disabled people, older adults, and unpaid carers, as well as service providers, local authorities, charities, academics, and Government officials. The Committee heard from 49 witnesses and accepted 145 pieces of written evidence. A highlight was the Committee’s visit to Real, a disabled people’s organisation. The report set out a new approach to adult social care which calls on the Government to commit to a more positive and resilient approach to adult social care based on greater visibility for the whole sector, as well as greater choice and control for disabled adults and older people and a better deal for unpaid carers.
74. The report received extremely positive press and social media coverage, including by national newspapers such as the *Guardian*, the *Times*, the *Telegraph* and *Express*,¹³⁵ BBC Radio,¹³⁶ and by a large range of specialist press. The report also received positive Twitter engagement including: “Brilliant report on #SocialCare by @HLAdultCare Great to see recommendations rooted in the lives of people who work and draw upon care, with an emphasis

133 Adult Social Care Committee, *A “gloriously ordinary life”: spotlight on adult social care* (Report of Session 2022–23, HL Paper 99)

134 Adult Social Care Committee, *Easy Read version: A report about adult social care in England and what we want the Government to change to make it better* (8 December 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31918/documents/179268/default/>

135 Pamela Duncan and Carmen Aguilar Garcia, ‘Flu and other viruses pile pressure on NHS as waiting lists hit new high’, *The Guardian* (8 December 2022): <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/dec/08/nhs-england-waiting-lists-flu-rsv-norovirus> [accessed 14 March 2023]; Mark McLaughlin, ‘National care service in Scotland ‘won’t help the vulnerable’, *The Times* (9 December 2022): <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/national-care-service-in-scotland-wont-help-the-vulnerable-mw6vj3ntq> [accessed 14 March 2023]; Daniel Martin, ‘Over four million elderly will have no children to look after them in 20 years’, *The Telegraph* (8 December 2022): <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/08/four-million-elderly-will-have-no-children-look-20-years/> [accessed 14 March 2023] and Sarah O’Grady, ‘Urgent call to put ‘invisible’ social care in the spotlight’, *Express* (8 December 2023): <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1706810/invisible-social-care-elderly-people-house-of-lords> [accessed 14 March 2023]

136 BBC Radio Newcastle, ‘Matt Bailey: Newcastle MP, United fans and Amnesty on Saudi sportswashing’ (8 December 2022): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0dg2v55> [accessed 14 March 2023]

on co-production!”¹³⁷ The social care sector was very supportive and praised the Committee’s recommendations and the readable style in which the report was written. The Government’s response to the report was generally positive, in particular regarding improvements to carer’s leave, embracement of co-production, and work on ensuring better data collection and R&D innovation.¹³⁸

Children and Families Act 2014

75. During the 2022–23 session the Children and Families Act 2014 Committee concluded its inquiry and published its report, *Children and Families Act 2014: A failure of implementation*.¹³⁹ The Committee’s scrutiny focused on adoption, family justice, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), employment rights and children and young people’s mental health.
76. Among other recommendations, the report highlighted a lack of monitoring and evaluation of the Act and called for the Government to improve mechanisms for post-legislative monitoring and scrutiny. A response from the Government was published on 9 February 2023 which set out the Government’s view that whilst some parts of the Act require continued focus on their implementation, there are areas where the Act has had a positive impact on children and families.¹⁴⁰
77. The Committee’s report was the culmination of an inquiry which involved hearing from 44 witnesses in evidence sessions and receiving more than 150 pieces of written evidence. The Committee also made efforts to hear directly from members of the public who might not otherwise take part in select committee inquiries. The Committee visited a school and SEND community centre in North London, a family court in Oxford, and a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) centre in South London. The Committee held roundtable discussions with birth parents from across the UK, adoptive parents from Yorkshire, young people with experience of the family justice system, and people working in children and young peoples’ mental health. The Committee also conducted an online survey, which received over 400 responses.
78. The report received considerable media coverage, with opinions pieces by the Chair featured in Politics Home,¹⁴¹ and *The Times* Red Box¹⁴² and

137 Engage Britain (@EngageBritain), tweet on 8 December 2022: <https://twitter.com/EngageBritain/status/1600914050526814208>. For further engagement on the report see the Adult Social Care Committee Twitter account: Adult Social Care Committee (@HLAdultCare): <https://twitter.com/HLAdultCare> [accessed 14 March 2023]

138 Department for Health and Social Care, *The government’s response to the Adult Social Care Committee report: A “gloriously ordinary life”: spotlight on adult social care* (April 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/39924/documents/194692/default/> [accessed 15 May 2023]

139 Children and Families Act 2014 Committee, *Children and Families Act 2014: A failure of implementation* (Report of Session 2022–23, HL Paper 100)

140 Department for Education, *Government Response Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Children and Families Act* (2014), CP 785 (February 2023): https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1134435/Government_response_to_Children_and_Families_Act_2014_Committee_web_accessible_version.pdf [accessed 27 April 2023]

141 Politics Home, ‘The Children and Families Act has failed to improve the lives of children and young people’: <https://www.politicshome.com/thehouse/article/the-children-and-families-act-has-failed-to-improve-the-lives-of-children-and-young-people> [accessed 16 June 2023]

142 ‘The government must take post-legislative scrutiny more seriously’ *The Times* (9 December 2022) available at: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-government-must-take-post-legislative-scrutiny-more-seriously-6r6n93b7z> [accessed 19 June 2023]

Children and Young People Now.¹⁴³ The Chair was also interviewed for Today in Parliament. The sector specific press covered the report extensively, including articles in School’s Week¹⁴⁴, FE News¹⁴⁵ and Community Care¹⁴⁶.

Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud

79. The Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud Committee published its report *Fighting Fraud: Breaking the Chain* on 12 November 2022.¹⁴⁷ The Committee called for delays to some payments, to include fraud as a policing priority and measures to boost corporate criminal liability. The Committee concluded the Fraud Act 2006 is a “sound piece of legislation that is not in need of substantial reform” however, called for the sentencing guidelines to be amended to fully reflect the “financial, emotional and psychological harms caused by fraud.”
80. The report was featured on BBC Radio 4’s *Today* programme, and in the *Telegraph* and *Financial Times* amongst other outlets.¹⁴⁸ The promotional video was viewed 23,000 times on Twitter.¹⁴⁹ The Committee Chair was interviewed on Lord Speaker’s Corner regarding the report’s findings.¹⁵⁰
81. The inquiry took over 100 written submissions and heard from over 45 witnesses, including Minister for Security, the Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MP, and comedian and consumer rights champion, Joe Lycett.¹⁵¹ Members heard from industry representatives and met victims in a visit to Birmingham.
82. Published on 9 March 2023, the Government’s response thanked the Committee for a “rigorous investigation into the impact of digital fraud”.¹⁵²

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- 143 Children & Young People Now, ‘2014 act ‘a missed opportunity’’: <https://www.cypnow.co.uk/analysis/article/2014-act-a-missed-opportunity> [accessed 16 June 2023]
 - 144 Schools Week, ‘Government has ‘not grasped’ child mental health service ‘crisis’’: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/government-has-not-grasped-child-mental-health-service-crisis/> [accessed 16 June 2023]
 - 145 FE News, ‘Vulnerable children and families failed by insufficient data and inadequate implementation and monitoring of legislation’ (6 December 2022): <https://www.fenews.co.uk/education/vulnerable-children-and-families-failed-by-insufficient-data-and-inadequate-implementation-and-monitoring-of-legislation/> [accessed 16 June 2023]
 - 146 Community Care, ‘Adoption workforce must become more diverse to help tackle racial disparities, says Lords report’: <https://www.communitycare.co.uk/2022/12/12/adoption-workforce-must-become-more-diverse-to-help-tackle-racial-disparities-says-lords-report/> [accessed 16 June 2023]
 - 147 Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud Committee, *Fighting Fraud: Breaking the Chain* (Report of Session 2022–23, HL Paper 87)
 - 148 BBC Radio 4, ‘Today’: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001f4kl> [accessed 27 April 2023], ‘Phone companies that fail to block scam texts should be prosecuted, Lords urge’, *The Telegraph* (12 November 2022): <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/consumer-affairs/phone-companies-fail-block-scam-texts-should-prosecuted-lords/> [accessed 19 June 2023]; ‘UK peers call for new criminal offence of ‘failure to prevent fraud’, *Financial Times* (12 November 2022): available at <https://www.ft.com/content/7bb3a69e-4c96-4b38-bc5f-17174800ff7c> [accessed 19 June 2023] and ‘We must crack down on fraud, demand Lords as they warn ministers, police and prosecutors have created a ‘permissive culture’ which allows criminals to fleece billions’, *Daily Mail* (12 November 2022): <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11419041/Ministers-police-prosecutors-warned-created-permissive-culture-fraud.html> [accessed 19 June 2023]
 - 149 Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud Committee (@HLFraudActCom), tweet on 12 November 2022: <https://twitter.com/HLFraudActCom/status/1591332388075962370> [accessed 19 June 2023]
 - 150 UK Parliament, ‘Lord Speaker’s Corner: Baroness Morgan of Cotes’: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/house-of-lords-podcast/lord-speakers-corner-baroness-morgan-of-cotes/>
 - 151 Oral evidence taken before the Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud Committee, 17 October 2022 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 250–272](#); Oral evidence taken before the Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud Committee, 7 April 2022 (Session 2022–23) [QQ 92–106](#)
 - 152 HM Government, *Government Response House of Lords Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud Select Committee Report* (9 March 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34321/documents/188908/default/>

The Home Office recognised the contribution of the Committee in shaping the Fraud Strategy, which was published in May 2023.¹⁵³

Land Use in England Committee

83. The Land Use in England Committee was appointed in January 2022 and published its report, *Making the most out of England's land*, in December 2022.¹⁵⁴ The report supported the creation of a land use framework for England, to help balance competing demands including food production, nature, carbon sequestration, housing, infrastructure and access.
84. The Committee heard from 52 witnesses in public evidence sessions as well as accepting 108 pieces of written evidence. Key witnesses included representatives from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Natural England, the National Farmers' Union, the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), the Woodland Trust and the Ramblers.
85. In June, members visited the 8 Hills Countryside Management project in Worcestershire to study its pilot approach to integrated land use, and then went on to the Sapperton Nature Recovery project in Gloucestershire to look at approaches to agroforestry and nature recovery. In each case the visit included a roundtable with key stakeholders. The Committee also held roundtable discussions in Westminster with experts to discuss what a land use framework might look like.
86. During the Committee's inquiry the Government published its food strategy, which included a commitment to create a land use framework in 2023 which would "reflect and respond to" the work of the Committee.¹⁵⁵ The draft framework is expected to be published some time in 2023. The Committee's work has thus already had a direct impact on Government policy. The Government's response agreed with a number of the Committee's proposals for design of a land use framework, including on the need for independent oversight, an emphasis on multifunctional uses, and on the more effective use of Green Belt land.¹⁵⁶

Liaison Committee special inquiry follow-up inquiries

87. On 21 June 2022, the House of Lords debated the Committee's fourth follow-up report, *Equality Act 2010: The Impact on Disabled People Follow-up Report*.¹⁵⁷ The report condemned the non-commencement of section 36 of the Equality Act 2010, which would enable disabled tenants or leaseholders to require that reasonable adjustments are made to common parts in their homes. In the debate the Minister announced that on 9 June 2022 the Government had launched a consultation into how this section

153 HM Government, *Fraud Strategy: Stopping Scams and Protecting the Public*, CP 839, May 2023: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1154660/Fraud_Strategy_2023.pdf [accessed 21 June 2023]

154 Land Use in England Committee, *Making the most out of England's land* (Report of Session 2022–23, HL Paper 105)

155 DEFRA, *Government food strategy*, CP 698 (June 2022) p 15: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1082026/government-food-strategy.pdf [accessed 20 April 2023]

156 DEFRA, *Government response to the Land Use Committee report 'Making the most out of England's land'* (3 April 2023): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34710/documents/191039/default/> [accessed 17 May 2023]

157 HL Debate, 21 June 2022, [cols 43GC–58GC](#)

would be implemented. The consultation closed on 18 August 2022 and it is anticipated the Government response “will be published as soon as possible in 2023.”¹⁵⁸ The Minister also noted that from September to December 2020 the Government consulted on raising the accessibility standards of new homes and committed to provide further detail on their plans in due course. Subsequently the Government published its response concluding that Part M4(2) of the Building Regulations on accessible and adaptable dwellings should be mandated and the need for further consultation to bring the changes into effect.¹⁵⁹ The Government also carried out a consultation on the best practice guidance for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing authorities as called for by the follow-up inquiry. The consultation closed on 20 June 2022 and Government is analysing the feedback received.¹⁶⁰

88. In the reporting period the Liaison Committee concluded its sixth special inquiry committee follow-up inquiry into the recommendations of the post-legislative scrutiny Committee on the Licensing Act 2003. The original committee reported in April 2017.¹⁶¹ The Liaison Committee wrote to Victoria Atkins MP, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability, on 31 January 2019 for an update on the report recommendations.¹⁶² A response was received on 5 November 2019.¹⁶³ On 10 March 2022 the Liaison Committee carried out three evidence sessions with nine witnesses. The follow-up report was published on 11 July 2022, with recommendations focusing on the coordination of the licensing and planning systems, the ‘Agent of Change’ principle, the training required in the sector, the night-time economy and the pricing and taxation of alcohol.¹⁶⁴ The Government Response was received on 8 November

158 Equality Hub and The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, ‘Improving disabled people’s access to let residential premises: reasonable adjustments to common parts, a new duty’ (9 June 2022): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-disabled-peoples-access-to-let-residential-premises-reasonable-adjustments-to-common-parts-a-new-duty> [accessed 10 May 2023]

159 Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, ‘Raising accessibility standards for new homes: summary of consultation responses and government response’ (updated 29 July 2022): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/raising-accessibility-standards-for-new-homes/outcome/raising-accessibility-standards-for-new-homes-summary-of-consultation-responses-and-government-response> [accessed 10 May 2023]

160 Department for Transport, ‘Taxi and private hire vehicle best practice guidance’ (28 March 2022): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-best-practice-guidance> [accessed 10 May 2022]

161 Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003, *The Licensing Act 2003: post-legislative scrutiny* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 146). See also the Government response to the report: Home Office, *The Government response to the report from the House of Lords Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003 Session 2016–7 HL Paper 146: The Licensing Act 2003: post-legislative scrutiny* (November 2017): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-government-response-to-the-report-from-the-house-of-lords-select-committee-on-the-licensing-act-2003> [accessed 15 March 2022]. See also the debate on the report: HL Deb, 20 December 2017, [cols 2145–2177](#).

162 Letter from the Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith, the then Chair of the Liaison Committee, to Victoria Atkins MP, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability (31 January 2019): <https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/lords-committees/liaison/Letter-from-Lord-McFall-of-Alcluith-on-the-Select-Committee-on-the-Licensing-Act-2003.pdf>

163 Letter from the Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP, the then Minister of State for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service, to the Rt Hon Lord McFall of Alcluith, the then Chair of the Liaison Committee (5 November 2019): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/61/documents/703/default/>

164 Liaison Committee, *The Licensing Act 2003: post-legislative scrutiny Follow-up report* (2nd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 39)

2022.¹⁶⁵ The Government agreed with the Committee's recommendation to include the 'Agent of Change' principle in the section 182 Guidance and this was published in December 2022.¹⁶⁶ The Committee also recommended the amendments to the Late Night Levy under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 be consulted on as a matter of urgency. The Government subsequently published a consultation on 9 January 2023 which closed on 4 April 2023. A Government Response is yet to be published.¹⁶⁷ The former Chair and two former members tabled amendments to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill at committee stage to legislate on the 'Agent of Change' principle to bring greater clarity and protection to existing licensed premises and new developments.¹⁶⁸

89. The Committee also commenced its seventh special inquiry follow-up into the Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities' 2019 report, *The future of seaside towns*.¹⁶⁹ The Committee requested an update on the report recommendations in a letter to the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 17 March 2021.¹⁷⁰ Luke Hall MP, the then Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, provided information on the progress made on 16 June 2021.¹⁷¹
90. Former members of the Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities took part in three evidence sessions held across 20 and 28 March 2023.¹⁷² During the original inquiry the Select Committee carried out six visits to coastal communities in Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick, Blackpool and Fleetwood, Margate, Skegness, Cornwall and Scarborough. The follow-up inquiry received written evidence from three of these areas.¹⁷³ The report will be published this year.

165 Home Office, *Government Response to the Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Licensing Act 2003: follow Up Report*, CP 753 (8 November 2022): https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1116013/E02802669_CP_753_Licensing_Act_2003.pdf [accessed 10 May 2023]

166 Home Office, 'Revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003': <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003#full-publication-update-history> [accessed 10 May 2023]

167 Home Office, 'Late night levy' (9 January 2023): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/late-night-levy> [accessed 10 May 2023]

168 HL Debate, 24 April 2023, [cols 987–996](#)

169 Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities, *The future of seaside towns* (Report of Session 2017–19, HL Paper 320). See also the Government response to the report: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, *Government response to the Report of Session 2017–19 of House of Lords' Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities Select Committee on The Future of Seaside Towns*, CP 102 (5 June 2019): https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805890/CCS207_CCS0519274236-001_Government_response_CP102_A4_WEB_ACCESSIBLE.pdf [accessed 17 May 2023]. See also the debate on the report: HL Deb, 1 July 2019, [cols 1279–1330](#).

170 Letter from the Rt Hon the Lord McFall of Alcluith, the then Chair of the Liaison Committee, to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (17 March 2021): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/5130/documents/50651/default/>

171 Letter from Luke Hall MP, the then Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, to Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Chair of the Liaison Committee (16 June 2021): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6637/documents/71493/default/>

172 Liaison Committee, 'Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities: follow-up': <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7311/regenerating-seaside-towns-and-communities-followup/>

173 Liaison Committee, 'Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities: Written evidence': <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7311/regenerating-seaside-towns-and-communities-followup/publications/written-evidence/>

Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee

91. Common frameworks are agreements under which the UK Government and the devolved administrations seek to coordinate the regulation of the UK's post-Brexit internal market.
92. The Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee was initially appointed in September 2020 to “scrutinise and consider matters relating to common frameworks” until the end of 2019–21 parliamentary session.¹⁷⁴ As the Government's timetable for agreeing common frameworks slipped, the Liaison Committee recommended that the Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee be extended to complete its work by the end of 2021¹⁷⁵, with a subsequent extension until the end of July 2022 being agreed in October 2021.¹⁷⁶ Due to further delay to the finalisation of the remaining common frameworks, on 28 November 2022, the Liaison Committee agreed a further and final extension until the end of 2023 for the purpose of scrutinising any outstanding frameworks published during this period.¹⁷⁷
93. The Committee published its second and final report in July 2022¹⁷⁸ and the Government's response was received in October 2022.¹⁷⁹ The Committee engaged in further correspondence with the Government on a number of matters arising from the response.
94. Over the financial year 2022/23, the Committee scrutinised and sent recommendations to the Government on a further 9 provisional common frameworks, including those relating to air quality, pollution prevention and control, and food standards and labelling. This included analysis of the relationship between common frameworks and wider related matters such as the UK Internal Market Act 2020, the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, and the impact of the Retained European Union Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill.¹⁸⁰

174 HL Deb, 17 September 2020, [cols 1401–1402](#) and Liaison Committee, *A Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee* (4th Report, Session 2019–21, HL Paper 115)

175 Liaison Committee, *Review of the Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee* (9th Report, Session 2019–21, HL Paper 241)

176 Letter from Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Senior Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Liaison Committee, to Baroness Andrews, Chair of the Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee (13 October 2021): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/21833/documents/162699/default/>

177 Letter from Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Senior Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Liaison Committee, to Baroness Andrews, Chair of the Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee (29 November 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31932/documents/179326/default/>

178 Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee, *Common frameworks: an unfulfilled opportunity?* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 41)

179 Cabinet Office, *Government response to the House of Lords Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee report: 'Common Frameworks: an unfulfilled opportunity?'* (November 2022): <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31445/documents/176341/default/> [accessed 17 May 2023]

180 Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee, ‘Correspondence’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/474/common-frameworks-scrutiny-committee/publications/3/correspondence/>

CHAPTER 4: SECONDARY LEGISLATION COMMITTEES

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee

95. The principal role of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee (DPRRC) is to examine bills introduced into the Lords and to report on any provisions which inappropriately delegate legislative power or subject the exercise of legislative power to an inappropriate degree of parliamentary scrutiny. During the reporting year, the Committee met 29 times and published 31 reports (45 Government bills and 23 private members' bills). They included fast-tracked bills, such as the Energy Prices Bill¹⁸¹ and Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Organ and Tissue Donation) Bill,¹⁸² which had to be reported on at considerable speed. The Committee also reported on one draft Legislative Reform Order, the draft Legislative Reform (Provision of Information etc. Relating to Disabilities) Order 2022¹⁸³ and, in May 2022, published an end of session report.¹⁸⁴
96. In November 2021, the Committee published a thematic report entitled *Democracy Denied? The urgent need to rebalance power between Parliament and the Executive*.¹⁸⁵ In preparing its report, the DPRRC collaborated closely with the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, which, on the same day as the publication of *Democracy Denied?*, published its report *Government by Diktat: A call to return power to Parliament*.¹⁸⁶ In July 2022, the two Committees held a joint, follow-up evidence session with the Leaders of the two Houses and First Parliamentary Counsel.¹⁸⁷ The debate on the reports in January 2023, in which 35 members spoke, demonstrated support from across the House.¹⁸⁸ The issues raised also resonated outside of Parliament and were, for example, referenced in a Hansard Society Working Paper on Delegated Legislation published in February 2023.¹⁸⁹

Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

97. The Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (JCSI) is comprised of seven members from each House and seeks to ensure that the legal drafting of statutory instruments laid before Parliament is complete, appropriate and does not exceed the powers set out in the Act under which the instrument is made. The terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Standing

181 Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, *Energy Prices Bill* (14th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 76)

182 Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, *Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Organ and Tissue Donation) Bill* (26th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 154)

183 Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, *Procurement Bill [HL]; Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill [HL]; Draft Legislative Reform (Provision of Information etc. Relating to Disabilities) Order 2022* (3rd Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 15)

184 Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, *End of Session 2021–22 Report* (1st Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 8)

185 Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, *Democracy Denied? The urgent need to rebalance power between Parliament and the Executive* (12th Report, Session 2021–22, HL Paper 106)

186 Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, *Government by Diktat: A call to return power to Parliament* (20th Report, Session 2021–22, HL Paper 105)

187 Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, 'Formal meeting (oral evidence session): Government responses to the special reports': <https://committees.parliament.uk/event/13939/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/>

188 HL Deb, 12 January 2023, cols 1532–1591

189 Hansard Society, 'Proposals for a New System for Delegated Legislation: A Working Paper': <https://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/publications/reports/proposals-for-a-new-system-for-delegated-legislation-a-working-paper> [accessed 10 May 2023]

Order 74 of the House of Lords Standing Orders relating to Public Business.¹⁹⁰ Under Standing Order 73, no motion to approve an affirmative instrument can be moved until the JCSI has reported on it, although the Standing Order does not prevent relevant instruments being debated in Grand Committee.

98. The Committee meets weekly during term time. During the reporting year, the Committee met 33 times and published 34 reports. It considered 801 instruments (including both instruments subject to and those not subject to a parliamentary procedure) (212 affirmative, 484 negative and 105 no procedure), of which 110 were drawn to the special attention of the Houses. The Committee is supported by a team of Counsel from both Houses, including three House of Lords Counsel. House of Lords Counsel advise on affirmative instruments, also assisting departments by undertaking pre-laying scrutiny.

Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee

99. The Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee (SLSC) scrutinises all instruments subject to a parliamentary proceeding. These are principally negative and affirmative instruments but also include, for example, proposed negative instruments (PNs) laid under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (“the 2018 Act”) and the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020, published draft instruments subject to enhanced scrutiny under the 2018 Act, Immigration Rules and statutory Codes. During the reporting year, the Committee met 34 times and published 38 reports. It scrutinised 653 statutory instruments (210 affirmative and 443 negative), 12 PNs and 8 published drafts. It also scrutinised two new types of instruments: regulations subject to enhanced scrutiny under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 and a draft Policy Statement on Environmental Principles laid under the Environment Act 2021. The Committee drew 46 (7%) instruments to the special attention of the House, most often on the ground that the instrument was politically or legally important. It also published 157 information paragraphs, and made three special reports: *What next? The Growing Imbalance between Parliament and the Executive*¹⁹¹ (April 2022), *Losing Impact: why the Government’s impact assessment system is failing Parliament and the public* (October 2022),¹⁹² and *Losing Control?: The Implications for Parliament of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill* (February 2023).¹⁹³ Activity relating to the Committee’s report *Government by Diktat*¹⁹⁴ is described in paragraph [96] above.

190 See also House of Commons, *Standing Orders Public Business 2021* HC 804 (December 2021), Standing Order 151: https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmstords/so_804_2021/so-804_02122021v2.pdf.

191 Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, *What next? The Growing Imbalance between Parliament and the Executive: End of Session Report 2021–22* (38th Report, Session 2021–22, HL Paper 200)

192 Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, *Losing Impact: why the Government’s impact assessment system is failing Parliament and the public* (12th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 62)

193 Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, *Losing Control?: The Implications for Parliament of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill* (28th Report, Session 2022–23, HL Paper 145)

194 Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, *Government by Diktat: A call to return power to Parliament* (20th Report, Session 2021–22, HL Paper 105)

CHAPTER 5: JOINT COMMITTEES

Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill

100. The Joint Committee on the draft Mental Health Bill was established by both Houses of Parliament in July 2022 to consider the draft Mental Health Bill, which had been published in June 2022.¹⁹⁵ The draft Bill was informed by recommendations of the *Independent Review* chaired by Professor Sir Simon Wessely¹⁹⁶ into the Mental Health Act 1983, which had been set up to consider reforms to reduce the overall number of detentions and the disproportionate representation of ethnic minorities detained under the Act. During the inquiry the Committee heard public evidence at 12 meetings, from over 50 witnesses, including service users, practicing clinicians and government ministers. The Committee visited the mental health facilities at Lambeth Hospital and held a virtual roundtable event with service users from around the country. The Committee received 114 submissions of written evidence and issued an online survey, including in ‘easy read’ format,¹⁹⁷ which had over a hundred responses. The survey responses were included as an appendix in the final report from the Committee.
101. The Committee published its report on 19 January 2023.¹⁹⁸ It made a number of recommendations, including the creation of a statutory Mental Health Commissioner and strengthening the draft Bill’s ability to tackle racial disparity. The Committee welcomed the intention to end the inappropriate long-term detention of people with learning disabilities or autism but recommended stronger safeguards and duties to prevent potential unintended consequences of more detentions under alternative legal powers or diversion into the criminal justice system.
102. The Committee’s report was welcomed following publication, receiving positive responses from organisations such as Mind¹⁹⁹ and Mencap.²⁰⁰ Furthermore, the Government has also welcomed the report, and the Minister in the House of Lords, Lord Markham, expressed his wish to bring a revised Bill forward as soon as possible.²⁰¹

Joint Committee on Human Rights

103. The Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) continued to scrutinise Bills with particular impact on human rights, as well as carrying out a number of thematic inquiries.

195 HL Deb, 4 July 2022, [col 865](#); HC Deb, 11 July 2022, [col 111](#); HL Deb, 19 July 2022, [col 1879](#)

196 Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983, *Modernising the Mental Health Act: Increasing choice, reducing compulsion* (December 2018): https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778897/Modernising_the_Mental_Health_Act_-_increasing_choice_reducing_compulsion.pdf [accessed 18 May 2023]

197 Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill, *Easy Read Draft Mental Health Bill Survey*: <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/28740/documents/174332/default/>

198 Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill, *Draft Mental Health Bill 2022* (First Report, Session 2022–23, HC 696, HL Paper 128)

199 ‘Mental Health Bill must tackle ‘unacceptable’ racial inequalities, MPs and peers warn’, *Independent*, (19 January 2023): <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/mental-health-bill-race-inequality-b2264381.html> [accessed 19 June 2023]

200 ‘Mencap responds to the Joint Committee’s report on the Draft Mental Health Bill’, *Politics.co.uk*, (19 January 2023): <https://www.politics.co.uk/opinion-former/press-release/2023/01/19/mencap-responds-to-the-joint-committees-report-on-the-draft-mental-health-bill/> [accessed 19 June 2023]

201 HL Deb, 26 January 2023, [col 315](#)

104. Its scrutiny of the Bill of Rights Bill culminated in an oral evidence session with the then Secretary of State for Justice, Dominic Raab MP, and the publication of a report on 17 January 2023.²⁰² The Committee welcomed the Government's commitment to remain a party to the ECHR but urged the Government to reconsider its decision to proceed with the Bill in its current form.
105. In addition, the Committee published reports which included recommended amendments, on: the National Security Bill,²⁰³ the Northern Ireland Legacy Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill,²⁰⁴ the Public Order Bill²⁰⁵ and the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill.²⁰⁶ Its scrutiny of the Illegal Migration Bill was launched on 16 March 2023.²⁰⁷
106. In anticipation of the introduction of the Illegal Migration Bill, the JCHR launched an inquiry into the Human Rights of Asylum Seekers in the UK, to consider the engagement of human rights in different aspects of the existing system.²⁰⁸ In one oral evidence session, members explored the work of local authorities across the UK, with the leaders of Kent County Council, North Devon Council, Glasgow City Council and Newcastle City Council.²⁰⁹
107. The Committee concluded its inquiry into the *Adoption of the babies of unmarried women 1949–1976* in July 2022.²¹⁰ One purpose of this inquiry was to allow the stories of women whose babies had been adopted during this period to be told—and to acknowledge the continuing pain of the silence and stigma. The then Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi MP, appeared before the committee in May 2022,²¹¹ and while the Government disagreed with the JCHR's recommendation that a formal apology was appropriate, its response acknowledged the terrible injustice that thousands had suffered.²¹²

202 Joint Committee on Human Rights, *Legislative Scrutiny: Bill of Rights Bill* (Ninth Report, Session 2022–2023, HC 611, HL Paper 132)

203 Joint Committee on Human Rights, *Legislative Scrutiny: National Security Bill* (Fifth Report, Session 2022–2023, HC 297, HL Paper 73)

204 Joint Committee on Human Rights, *Legislative Scrutiny: Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill* (Sixth Report, Session 2022–2023, HC 311, HL Paper 79)

205 Joint Committee on Human Rights, *Legislative Scrutiny: Public Order Bill* (First Report, Session 2022–23, HC 351, HL Paper 16)

206 Joint Committee on Human Rights, *Legislative Scrutiny: Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill 2022–2023* (Tenth Report, Session 2022–23, HC 1088, HL Paper 157)

207 Joint Committee on Human Rights, 'Legislative Scrutiny: Illegal Migration Bill': <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7389/legislative-scrutiny-illegal-migration-bill/>

208 Joint Committee on Human Rights, 'Human Rights of Asylum Seekers in the UK': <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6983/human-rights-of-asylum-seekers-in-the-uk/>

209 Oral evidence taken before the Joint Committee on Human Rights, inquiry on Human Rights of Asylum Seekers in the UK, 11 January 2023 (Session 2022–23), [QQ 48–58](#) (Roger Gough, David Worden, Susan Aitken, Lesley Storey)

210 Joint Committee on Human Rights, *The Violation of Family Life: Adoption of Children of Unmarried Women 1949–1976*, (Third Report, Session 2022–23, HC 270, HL Paper 43)

211 Oral evidence taken before the Joint Committee on Human Rights, inquiry on The right to family life: the adoption of children of unmarried women 1949–1976, 25 May 2022 (Session 2022–23). [QQ 25–34](#) (Nadhim Zahawi MP, Sarah Jennings)

212 Joint Committee on Human Rights, *The Violation of Family Life: Adoption of Children of Unmarried Women 1949–1976: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report* (Fifth Special Report, Session 2022–23, HC1180)

108. Additionally, the JCHR carried out its statutory functions in relation to remedial orders on bereavement benefits²¹³ and the State Immunity Act 1978.²¹⁴

Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

109. In October 2022 the Committee published its report *Readiness for the Storms ahead? Critical national infrastructure in an age of climate change*.²¹⁵ The report urged the Government to “get a proper grip” on the major national security risks posed by the effects of climate change on critical national infrastructure (CNI). It concluded that no minister had taken responsibility for this issue which the Committee suggested revealed an “extreme weakness” at the centre of government. The report recommendations included the establishment of a Minister of State for CNI and the creation of a statutory forum between the relevant regulatory bodies to address interdependencies. The report received extensive media coverage including in *The Times*,²¹⁶ *The Independent*,²¹⁷ *The Evening Standard*²¹⁸ and *BBC Breakfast*.²¹⁹ The Chair was also interviewed on *Times Radio*. The Government has subsequently announced its Third National Adaption Programme, which the Committee understands will address some of its recommendations.²²⁰ The Government also published the Resilience Framework in December 2022, which included actions on local resilience and cross-government risk management.²²¹
110. In October 2022, the Committee launched an inquiry into ransomware.²²² The inquiry will assess the extent of the threat, the levels and sources of vulnerability of UK organisations and on the experience of UK victims of ransomware.

213 Joint Committee on Human Rights, ‘Draft Bereavement Benefits (Remedial) Order 2022’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6995/draft-bereavement-benefits-remedial-order-2022/>

214 Joint Committee on Human Rights, ‘Draft State Immunity Act 1978 (Remedial) Order 2022’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6962/draft-state-immunity-act-1978-remedial-order-2022/>

215 Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, *Readiness for storms ahead? Critical national infrastructure in an age of climate change* (First Report, Session 2022–23, HC Paper 132, HL Paper 74)

216 ‘Extreme weather could blow a hole in national security’, *The Times* (27 October 2022): <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/extreme-weather-could-blow-a-hole-in-national-security-hnhtz8cb6> [accessed 19 April 2023]

217 ‘Government must ‘get a grip’ on infrastructure and security risks from climate crisis, MPs warn, *The Independent* (27 October 2022): <https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/climate-crisis-government-national-security-flooding-b2211244.html> [accessed 19 April 2023]

218 ‘UK critical infrastructure at risk from climate change, say MPs’, *The Evening Standard* (27 October 2022): <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/mps-margaret-beckett-government-michael-ellis-cabinet-office-b1035542.html> [accessed 19 April 2023]

219 BBC, ‘BBC Breakfast’ (27 October 2022): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001djyc>

220 Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, ‘Climate change impacts on infrastructure—Committee calls for greater government urgency’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/111/national-security-strategy-joint-committee/news/186499/climate-change-impacts-on-infrastructure-committee-calls-for-greater-government-urgency/>

221 Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, *Readiness for storms ahead? Critical national infrastructure in an age of climate change: Government response to the Committee’s First Report* (First Special Report, Session 2022–23, HC Paper 1181, HL Paper 156)

222 Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, ‘Ransomware’: <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7017/ransomware/>

CHAPTER 6: COMMUNICATING MORE WIDELY

Communications within Parliament

111. The e-mail newsletter for Lords Committees, *From the Horseshoe*, informs Lords members and their staff as well as Administration staff about current committee activity including evidence sessions, reports, Government responses, upcoming report debates and follow-up work. Committees also regularly feature in the general newsletter for Lords members, *Red Benches*.

External communications

112. House of Lords Committees continued to develop how they explain their work to the public. Committee media and communication activity is supported by the House of Lords Communications Department who lead on media engagement for committees as well as providing support on digital communications and stakeholder engagement through the bicameral committee engagement team.
113. There have been a number of media and communications highlights for House of Lords Committee's in 2022/23 including:
 - The Economic Affairs Committee report on the UK Labour Market received more than 450 pieces of media coverage when it was published on 20 December 2022. This included articles in *The Guardian*²²³, *The Times*²²⁴, *The Telegraph*²²⁵, *Daily Mail*²²⁶ and *Financial Times*²²⁷. *The Times* also based their lead editorial on the report on the day of publication. The report was well covered on radio, running throughout the day's news broadcasts across BBC radio and on LBC.
 - The appearance of Ai-Da, a robotic AI powered robot artist, to give evidence to the Communications and Digital Committee made headlines globally²²⁸ including extensive broadcast coverage on Good Morning Britain, Radio 4 and Sky News.²²⁹ In total there were 200 pieces of media coverage about the session. Allowing news photographers into the Committee Room to take shots of Ai-Da ahead of the session ensured picture coverage and page leading articles in a number of newspapers that do not usually cover committee evidence

223 'Exodus of more than half a million from the workforce "puts UK economy at risk"', *The Guardian* (20 December 2022): <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/dec/20/exodus-of-more-than-half-a-million-from-workforce-puts-uk-economy-at-risk> [accessed 19 June 2023]

224 'Early retirement driving inflation and harming growth, says report' *The Times* (20 December 2022): <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/early-retirement-driving-inflation-and-harming-growth-says-report-tspgq982p> [accessed 19 June 2023]

225 'Surge in early retirement since pandemic 'driving drop in economic activity'', *The Telegraph* (20 December 2022): <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/20/surge-early-retirement-since-pandemic-driving-drop-economic/> [accessed 19 June 2023]

226 'Early retirement "biggest cause" of labour shortages, warns Lords committee', *Daily Mail* (20 December 2022): <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-11556239/Early-retirement-biggest-cause-labour-shortages-warns-Lords-committee.html> [accessed 19 June 2023]

227 'UK labour shortages are 'shape of things to come', lords warn' *Financial Times* (20 December 2022): available at <https://www.ft.com/content/2b8604d4-44d7-4842-bd81-19554283bb69> [accessed 19 June 2023]

228 For example, 'A robot testified at Britain's House of Lords—then had a breakdown', *The Washington Post* (13 October 2022): <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/13/ai-da-robot-house-lords-meller/> [accessed 18 May 2023]

229 Sky News, 'AI robot Ai-Da is about to make history giving evidence to a House of Lords inquiry': <https://news.sky.com/story/ai-robot-ai-da-is-about-to-make-history-giving-evidence-to-a-house-of-lords-inquiry-12717525> [accessed 19 June 2023]

sessions including *The Sun*, *The Daily Star*, *The Daily Mail*²³⁰ and *The Scotsman*²³¹.

- The Industry and Regulators Committee report on Ofwat and the water industry *The Affluent and the Effluent* achieved widespread national media coverage including a link-up with The Times *Clean it up* water campaign. In total the report was covered in more than 200 media articles or features including on The Today Programme and Radio 5 Live Breakfast.
- The Environment and Climate Change Committee’s letter highlighting failings in the Government’s Boiler Replacement Upgrade Scheme sparked significant media interest in consumer and trade media. The report sparked a widespread discussion on how we will heat our homes in the future and featured as the subject of a BBC Radio 5 phone in debate hosted by Adrian Chiles.²³²
- The Communications team produced six report videos and four call for evidence videos which received more than 85,500 views and some very positive engagement. This included the Environment and Climate Change committee report on behaviour change which had over 25,000 views and more than 600 shares and likes.²³³ The Fraud Committee report was shared by consumer champion Martin Lewis and had over 22,000 views²³⁴ and the Children and Families Act film was the best performing video, aside from ceremonial content, on the House of Lords Facebook account to date.²³⁵
- To accompany the launch of this year’s Special Inquiry Committees in March we adopted a new focus on producing online videos at the start of the inquiry to encourage the public to share their views during the call for evidence. The videos can then be adapted at report stage, increasing the reach and making them more cost effective. The four videos have so far reached 64,000 people with over 10,000 views. As those inquiries progress, we can assess whether the videos were useful to encourage potential witnesses to engage with the committees.²³⁶

230 ‘Robot makes debut in Britain’s parliament but “falls ASLEEP mid-flow”: Bizarre moment humanoid Ai-Da becomes cross-eyed and zombie-like during debate about whether creativity is under attack from AI’ *Daily Mail* (11 October 2022): <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11302895/British-humanoid-Ai-Da-robot-speak-House-Lords.html> [accessed 19 June 2023]

231 ‘Ai-Da robot makes history by giving evidence to parliamentary inquiry’, *The Scotsman* (11 October 2022): <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/ai-da-robot-makes-history-by-giving-evidence-to-parliamentary-inquiry-3876054> [accessed 18 May 2023]

232 BBC, ‘BBC 5 Live’ (22 February 2023): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001jdj5>

233 Environment and Climate Change Committee (@HLEnviroClimate), tweet on 12 October 2022: <https://twitter.com/HLEnviroClimate/status/1580113664593387520> [accessed 19 June 2023]

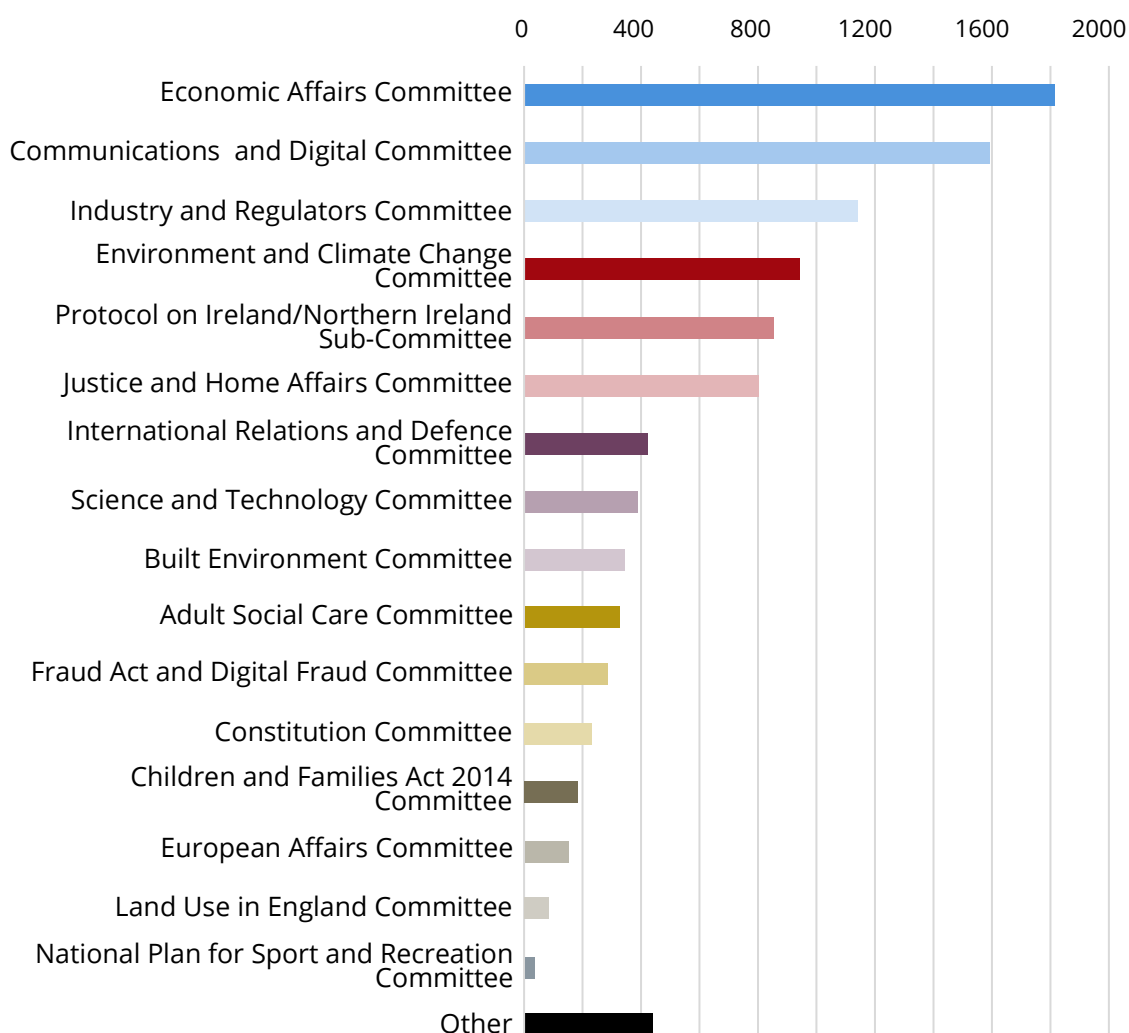
234 Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud Committee, (@HLFraudActCom), tweet on 12 November 2022: <https://twitter.com/HLFraudActCom/status/1591332388075962370> [accessed 19 June 2023]

235 Children and Families Act 2014 Committee (@HLChildrenAct), tweet on 6 December 2022: <https://twitter.com/HLChildrenAct/status/1600061225731207171> [accessed 19 June 2023]

236 AI in Weapon Systems Committee (@HIAIWeapons), tweet on 7 March 2023: <https://twitter.com/HIAIWeapons/status/1633057080474054656> [accessed 19 June 2023]; Integration of Primary and Community Care Committee (@LordsCareCom), tweet on 10 March 2023: <https://twitter.com/LordsCareCom/status/1634202748102008832> [accessed 19 June 2023]; Education for 11–16 Year Olds Committee (@Lords11to16Ed), tweet on 20 March 2023: <https://twitter.com/Lords11to16Ed/status/1637772014747279361> and Horticultural Sector Committee (@HLHorticulture), tweet on 8 March 2023: <https://twitter.com/HLHorticulture/status/1633479979278163969> [accessed 19 June 2023]

114. House of Lords Committees were covered 10,628 times by the media in 2022–23. This was broken down as 9,333 pieces of online media coverage, 673 items of print newspaper coverage, 506 features on TV and Radio broadcasts and 116 pieces of print consumer or trade magazine coverage. Figure 3 shows the volume of coverage for all committees with more than 100 media mentions in the year.

Figure 3: Volume of positive media coverage



115. Committee Chairs are active contributors to the House of Lords podcast and to Lord Speaker's Corner, hosted by the Lord Speaker Lord McFall of Alcluith. These have included interviews in December 2022 with Baroness Andrews on the report of the Adult Social Care Committee and Baroness Tyler of Enfield on the report of the Committee on the Children and Families Act 2014²³⁷; and a discussion in March 2023 between the Lord Speaker and Baroness Morgan of Cotes, Chair of the Committee on the Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud.²³⁸ The Senior Deputy Speaker, Chair of

237 UK Parliament, 'House of Lords Podcast: adult social care, and children and families': <https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/house-of-lords-podcast/house-of-lords-podcast-adult-social-care-and-children-and-families/>

238 UK Parliament, 'Lord Speaker's Corner: Baroness Morgan of Cotes': <https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/house-of-lords-podcast/lord-speakers-corner-baroness-morgan-of-cotes/>

the Liaison Committee, has also been interviewed on the work of House of Lords committees.²³⁹

Interparliamentary engagement

116. Following a hiatus during the pandemic, a number of select committees, including in particular the European Affairs Committee, which has responsibility for managing interparliamentary relations with the European Parliament and EU National Parliaments, have had a busy year of engagement including within new or evolved structures following the UK's departure from the EU. In addition to the bilateral committee to committee engagement documented by each committee area, this included:
- The Interparliamentary Forum (IPF) which was re-launched in the House of Lords in February 2022, brings together counterpart committees from the UK and devolved legislatures. The second meeting was held in Cardiff in October 2022 and the latest meeting was held in Westminster in March 2023.
 - The UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) had its first meeting in Brussels in May 2022. Established under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the Assembly is a forum for communication between the UK and EU Parliaments. The second meeting of the PPA was held in November 2022 at Westminster. The Assembly agreed a recommendation to the Partnership Council on energy cooperation.²⁴⁰
 - As a European member of NATO, UK Parliament committee members continue to attend the Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP/CSDP). Members of the European Affairs and International Relations and Defence Committees attended conferences in Prague in September 2022 and Stockholm in March 2023. Representatives of the European Affairs Committee continue to be invited as observers to meetings of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs (COSAC) their preparatory Chairpersons Meetings, and the Chair, Lord Kinnoull, attended all of the meetings during the Czech and Swedish Presidencies.

239 UK Parliament, 'House of Lords Podcast: secondary education and integrating care': <https://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/house-of-lords-podcast/house-of-lords-podcast-secondary-education-and-integrating-care/>

240 For a report of the second meeting, see the Joint Statement by the PPA Co-Chairs. UK Parliament and European Parliament, *Second meeting of the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly* (7–8 November 2022): <https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/mps-lords--offices/offices/nato-expenses-2022-23-first-quarter/joint-statement-by-co-chairs---2nd-uk-eu-ppa.pdf>

APPENDIX 1: ACTIVITY INDICATORS BY FINANCIAL YEAR

	2018/19 (Joint Committees)	2019/20 (Joint Committees)	2020/21 (Joint Committees)	2021/22 (Joint Committees)	2022/23 (Joint Committees)
Number of committees /sub- committees	20 (3) ²⁴¹	24 (3) ²⁴²	26 (3) ²⁴³	24 (3) ²⁴⁴	24 (3) ²⁴⁵
Number of committee meetings	567 (45)	386 (25)	658 (69)	615 (78)	525 (61)
Number of committee members ²⁴⁶	179	219	224	244	235
Number of witnesses giving oral evidence	939 (119)	638 (35)	1,095 (108)	1,048 (166)	796 (163)
Number of written submissions received	1,377 (229)	1,040 w(167)	2,342 (512)	1,397 (1073)	1,476 (353)
Number of reports published	65 (15)	58 (11)	81 (13)	65 (15)	55 (15)
Number of printed pages of reports	3,075 (541)	2,224 (495)	3,457 (575)	2,773 (864)	2,436 (912)
Resource expenditure outturn	£4,211,649	£4,500,524	£4,607,782	£4,872,752	£5,627,842 ²⁴⁷

Note: All figures exclude the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee and the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments. The SLSC publishes data on its activity in its own yearly reports on the work of the Committee.

²⁴¹ Including JCHR, JCNSS and Joint Committee on the Draft Registration of Overseas Entities Bill. Excluding Joint Committee on the Draft Health Service Safety Investigations Bill, Joint Committee on the Draft Parliamentary Buildings Bill and Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill.

²⁴² Including JCHR, JCNSS and Joint Committee on the Draft Registration of Overseas Entities Bill. Excluding Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill. Artificially high due to the late publication of 3 Special Inquiry Reports.

²⁴³ Including JCHR, JCNSS and Joint Committee on the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act. Artificially high due to the transition between the former EU sub-committees and the new sessional committees.

²⁴⁴ Including JCHR, JCNSS and Joint Committee on the Draft Online Safety Bill.

²⁴⁵ Including JCHR, JCNSS and the Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill.

²⁴⁶ Number of members who have been a member of at least one investigative committee during the period stated

²⁴⁷ Provisional resource expenditure outturn.

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF INVESTIGATIVE SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS PUBLISHED IN 2022/23, INCLUDING DATE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
Adult Social Care	A “gloriously ordinary life”: spotlight on adult social care	8 December 2022	11 May 2023
Built Environment	Public transport in towns and cities	9 November 2022	9 January 2023
Children and Families Act 2014	Children and Families Act 2014: A failure of implementation	6 December 2022	9 February 2023
Common Frameworks	Common frameworks: an unfulfilled opportunity?	15 July 2022	25 October 2022
Communications and Digital	Licence to change: BBC future funding	18 July 2022	26 October 2022
Communications	At risk: our creative future	17 January 2023	18 April 2023
Constitution	Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill [HL]	20 June 2022	None required
Constitution	Schools Bill [HL]	6 June 2022	None required
Constitution	Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill	22 July 2022	None required
Constitution	Energy Bill [HL]	2 September 2022	None required
Constitution	Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill	14 October 2022	21 February 2023

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
Constitution	Northern Ireland Protocol Bill	20 October 2022	None required
Constitution	Public Order Bill	11 November 2022	None required
Constitution	Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill	5 December 2022	None required
Constitution	National Security Bill	15 December 2022	None required
Constitution	The roles of the Lord Chancellor and the Law Officers	18 January 2023	16 March 2023
Constitution	Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill	19 January 2023	None required
Constitution	Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill	15 January 2023	None required
Constitution	Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill	17 February 2023	None required
Constitution	Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill	7 March 2023	19 April 2023
Constitution	Online Safety Bill	17 March 2023	None required
Economic Affairs	Investing in energy: price, security, and the transition to net zero	21 July 2022	11 October 2022
Economic Affairs	Where have all the workers gone?	20 December 2022	26 April 2023

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
Environment and Climate Change	In our hands: behaviour change for climate and environmental goals	12 October 2022	9 December 2022
European Affairs	The UK-EU relationship in financial services	23 June 2022	13 October 2022
European Affairs	Future Scrutiny Arrangements for EU-Related Business	13 December 2022	None required
Fraud Act 2006 and Digital Fraud	Fighting Fraud: Breaking the Chain	12 November 2022	23 February 2023
Industry and Regulators	The affluent and the effluent: cleaning up failures in water and sewage regulation	22 March 2023	30 May 2023
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: UK-Australia free trade agreement	23 June 2022	5 September 2022
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: UK-France Maritime Security Agreement	20 June 2022	None required
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence	17 June 2022	7 July 2022

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: Customs Co-operation Agreement with Canada	13 June 2022	None required
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: Digital Economy Agreement with Singapore, and Sixth Protocol to the Convention on a Very High Neutron Flux Reactor	8 April 2022	1 June 2022
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: Convention on Marine Aids to Navigation	8 April 2022	27 April 2022
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: Amendments to the UK-Swiss Free Trade Agreement, and the International Civil Aviation Convention	15 July 2022	None required
International Agreements	UK–India free trade agreement: Scrutiny of the Government’s Negotiating Objectives	22 July 2022	18 October 2022

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
International Agreements	Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Rwanda for the provision of an asylum partnership arrangement	18 October 2022	13 January 2023
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime	24 October 2022	None required
International Agreements	Scrutiny of international agreements: UK-New Zealand free trade agreement	4 November 2022	13 January 2023
International Agreements	Scrutiny of International Agreements: Agreement with Switzerland on Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment	13 January 2023	None required
International Agreements	Scrutiny of International Agreements: Protocol amending the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	20 January 2023	None required

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
International Agreements	Scrutiny of International Agreements: Agreement with Italy on the Mutual Recognition of Driving Licences for the Purposes of Exchange	10 February 2023	None required
International Agreements	Scrutiny of International Agreements: UK-Japan Reciprocal Access Agreement	20 March 2023	None required
International Agreements	Scrutiny of International Agreements: UK-Georgia Readmission Agreement	21 March 2023	None required
International Agreements	Scrutiny of International Agreements: UK-Ukraine Tariff Liberalisation Agreement	27 March 2023	None required
International Relations and Defence	UK defence policy: from aspiration to reality?	12 January 2023	9 March 2023
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Legislative Scrutiny: Public Order Bill	17 June 2022	11 August 2022
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Human Rights Act Reform	13 April 2022	6 July 2022
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Protecting human rights in care settings	22 July 2022	Not received yet

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
Joint Committee on Human Rights	The Violation of Family Life: Adoption of Children of Unmarried Women 1949–1976	14 July 2022	21 February 2023
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Proposal for a draft State Immunity Act 1978 (Remedial) Order 2022: State Immunity & The Right of Access to a Court	12 July 2022	None required
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Legislative Scrutiny: National Security Bill	19 October 2022	Not received yet
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Legislative Scrutiny: Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Bill	26 October 2022	21 February 2023
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Draft State Immunity Act 1978 (Remedial) Order 2022: Second Report	29 November 2022	None required
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Draft Bereavement Benefits (Remedial) Order 2022: Second Report	6 December 2022	None required
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Legislative Scrutiny: Bill of Rights Bill	25 January 2023	Not received yet
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Legislative Scrutiny: Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill 2022–2023	6 March 2023	None required
Joint Committee on Human Rights	Human Rights Ombudsperson	28 March 2023	8 June 2023

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill	Draft Mental Health Bill 2022	19 January 2023	Not received yet
Justice and Home Affairs	All families matter: An inquiry into family migration	28 February 2023	8 June 2023
Land Use in England	Making the most out of England's land	13 December 2022	27 March 2023
Liaison	Review of House of Lords investigative and scrutiny committee activity in 2021-22	7 July 2022	None required
Liaison	The Licensing Act 2003: post-legislative scrutiny Follow-up report	11 July 2022	8 November 2022
Liaison	New committee activity in 2023	7 December 2022	None required
National Security Strategy (Joint Committee)	Readiness for storms ahead? Critical national infrastructure in an age of climate change: Government response to the Committee's First Report	2 March 2023	None required
National Security Strategy (Joint Committee)	Readiness for storms ahead? Critical national infrastructure in an age of climate change	27 October 2022	20 February 2023

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received
Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland Sub-Committee	Report from the Sub-Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland: Follow-up report	27 July 2022	26 September 2022
Public Services	Fit for the future? Rethinking the public services workforce	19 July 2022	7 November 2022
Public Services	Emergency healthcare: a national emergency	19 January 2023	24 March 2023
Science and Technology	“Science and technology superpower”: more than a slogan?	4 August 2022	6 March 2023

APPENDIX 3: ACRONYMS

BUS	Boiler Upgrade Scheme
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CFSP/CSDP	Interparliamentary Conference on the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CNI	Critical National Infrastructure
COSAC	Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs
CRAG	Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010
CSU	Committees Scrutiny Unit
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DPRRC	Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee
ECON	European Parliament Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
EDs	Emergency Departments
FTAs	Free Trade Agreements
IP	Interparliamentary Forum
JCHR	Joint Committee on Human Rights
JCSI	Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments
LIBE	European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
LDI	Liability Driven Investment
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
OBR	Office for Budget Responsibility
PNs	Proposed Negative Instruments
PPA	UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly
R&D	Research and Development
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SLAPPs	Strategic lawsuits against public participation
SLSC	Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TCA	UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement
WA	Withdrawal Agreement