



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Decisions

Monday 30 November 2020

Attendance

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

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

I. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Commission agreed the record of discussion of the previous meetings of the House of Lords Commission of 2 November and 10 November.

The Lord Speaker thanked Commission members for agreeing a paper proposing a new external member of the Audit Committee from Mathew Duncan (C/19-21/75) and noting a paper on the expected costs of the External Management Review from the Senior Deputy Speaker (C/19-21/76), both by correspondence on Monday 16 November.

The Lord Speaker thanked Commission members for agreeing a paper rescinding Lord Ahmed's privileges as a retired member and his access to the Parliamentary Estate, subject to approval of by the House of the report of the Conduct Committee (C/19-21/77), by correspondence on Tuesday 17 November. He explained that following the agreement of the report on Thursday 19 November a letter was sent to Lord Ahmed informing him of the Commission's decision.

The Lord Speaker explained the new timetable for the delivery of the External Management Review report and that it would be agreed and published in January. Lord McFall of Alcluith explained that committee rotations would take place in the final week of January, and that Baroness Doocey, Lord Laming, Baroness McIntosh of

Hudnall and Lord Wakeham would remain as Commission members for the purposes of the meeting on Monday 18 January 2021.

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

Liz Peace, Chair of the R&R Sponsor Board, and Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body

C/19-21/70 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **noted** the Quarterly Report.

3. New Covid-19 Rules: Operation of the House from 2 December 2020

Oral Update from Professor John Simpson, Head of Public Health Advice, Guidance and Expertise Pillar COVID-19 Response and Dr Mark Salter, Consultant in Global Health and Senior Medical Advisor, Public Health England and paper by Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments

C/19-21/77 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Clerk of the Parliaments introduced his paper. After discussion, the Commission **agreed** that there should be no further changes to the face-covering guidance and **agreed** that members' staff should continue to work from home if they can. The Commission **agreed** that alcohol could be served in the Peers' Dining Room in line with the current regulations. The Commission **noted** the position regarding other facilities and services on the Estate.

4. Additional Financial Support for Members with Disabilities

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments

C/19-21/78 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **agreed** that an Additional Financial Support Group be established to consider and decide upon requests for additional support that fall outside the current framework. The Commission also **agreed** the terms of reference, composition and certain working practices as set out in the paper.

5. Next meeting

The Lord Speaker informed Commission members that the next meeting would take place via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 2pm.

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