



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

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. Lord Fowler said that Liz Hewitt's final meeting as an external member would be on Tuesday 15 December.

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

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

Liz Peace explained the timetable for the delivery of the Strategic Review report and the recent work carried out by Buro Happold.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

Baroness Smith of Basildon said that significant political decisions relating to the works had already been taken by both Houses in the form of the resolutions and the Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Act 2019, and that the direction established by these decisions should continue to guide the work of the Sponsor Body and Delivery Authority.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

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 Lord Speaker welcomed Professor Simpson and Dr Salter to the meeting.

Professor Simpson and Dr Salter briefed Commission members on the current trajectory of cases nationally and in London, both the national re-introduction of the tier system, the development of rapid testing and the sequencing of the vaccination rollout.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

The Lord Speaker thanked Professor Simpson and Dr Salter and commended Public Health England for its work during the pandemic and ongoing advice to the Commission.

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.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

4. Additional Financial Support for Members with Disabilities

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/19-21/78 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Clerk of the Parliaments introduced the paper.

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.

The Leader of the House asked for the Group to consider one outstanding case soon as possible.

5. Any Other Business

Lord McFall of Alcluith suggested that Lords members of the Consultative Panel on Parliamentary Security should be able claim the daily allowance in respect of their attendance at formal meetings of the Panel. The Lord Speaker suggested that a short paper be circulated setting out the proposal together with any other related proposals.

6. 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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