

Explanatory memorandum by the Clerk of the House on the motion in the name of the Leader of the House relating to: Procedure Committee Fourth Report, Correcting the record

1. The Government has tabled a motion to enable the House to debate and express its view on the Procedure Committee's fourth report on [Correcting the record](#). The motion approves the report and allows the changes detailed in paragraphs 3 and 4 below to come into effect. The [Leader of the House has written in support](#) of the recommendations.

2. In its report, the Procedure Committee reviewed the current mechanisms by which Ministers and backbench Members can correct the parliamentary record, including whether arrangements allow them to provide information to Parliament efficiently and clearly. The Committee concluded that existing procedural mechanisms to challenge the accuracy of contributions made in the House are sufficient, and that a thorough understanding of these mechanisms can assist Members in challenging the accuracy of contributions.

3. The Committee recommended that the existing system for Ministerial corrections be expanded to include all Members, meaning that corrections by backbenchers would feature on corrections pages generated by the Official Report and would be cross-referenced. All corrections should adhere to the same rules as set in the ministerial corrections system, including not being provided to continue an argument or present new information.

4. The report also made recommendations on improving visibility and accessibility of corrections, which the House Administration is working on implementing:

- Improving the format of cross-referenced hyperlinks so that they are clearer.
- Cross-referenced hyperlinks to be added to corrections made through points of order and other oral contributions.
- The creation of a central corrections page that collects all corrections together.

Tom Goldsmith

Clerk of the House

20 October 2023