

Editor of the Official Report (Hansard)
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

The Right Hon. Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Procedure Committee
House of Commons

29 February 2024

Correcting the record (Fourth Report of Session 2022-23)

Dear Dame Karen,

Since the House gave its approval to the report on 24 October last year, we have been working towards implementing the Committee's recommendations in full.

I am writing to set out the changes that will be made in the Official Report and to inform you that we expect the new system to go live on 15 April, when the House returns after the Easter recess. It has taken us some time to get to this point because some of those changes have involved work on our website and production systems.

Cross referenced hyperlinks provided in the Official Report should be improved...through replacing the existing code with wording clearly stating that the link directs the reader to a correction.

Ascription links directing readers to a correction will include the word "Correction" following the column reference.

Cross-referenced hyperlinks currently used in the ministerial corrections system should also be added to corrections made through points of order and other oral contributions.

Where a Member states on the Floor of the House that they wish to correct a remark they have made and refers to the Official Report by date and column reference, an ascription link will be included both in that statement and alongside the original words spoken, where it will include the word "Correction". The Members Guide to Procedure will include guidance on this point and will also be updated to reflect the other changes outlined in this letter.

Corrections should be easier to access...through the creation of a central corrections page [including] all corrections that have been made, including through Written Ministerial Statements and points of order, in chronological order, with the topic and link included.

A corrections page will be published on parliament.uk and updated weekly with any corrections made by Ministers or other Members, including through written ministerial statements and points of order, in chronological order, with the topic and link included.

The most effective option to improve opportunities for backbenchers to correct the record is to incorporate them fully into the existing ministerial corrections system...They should

also be required to adhere to the same standards as set in the ministerial corrections system.

The Hansard daily part and web pages will include a section entitled "Written corrections" subdivided into "Ministerial corrections" and "Other corrections"; the latter will include corrections received from Members who are not Ministers. The column reference used to refer to written corrections will change to WC to reflect their broader compass.

We note the requirement that Members adhere to the same standards as set in the ministerial corrections system, which will be helpful in ensuring consistency and preventing attempts to elaborate or rehearse arguments.

While I do not currently anticipate that my team will require extra resources to implement the new approach, I would like to suggest that we report back to the Committee after a year on uptake and on how it has been working. I will consult those copied into this letter, listed below, on how best to communicate the changes among Members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack Homer", written over a horizontal line.

Jack Homer, Editor of the Official Report (Hansard)

cc. Tom Goldsmith (Clerk of the House of Commons), Tom Healey (Principal Clerk, Table Office), Eve Samson (Clerk of the Journals) and Gavin Blake (Clerk to the Procedure Committee).