



The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Procedure Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: PM/NMP3910
7th March 2024

Dear Dame Karen,

PROXY VOTING

I have been delighted to see proxy voting work for many Members over recent years and I am committed to listening and working with colleagues to ensure our procedures help support an inclusive working environment in Parliament.

It has been brought to my attention that colleagues may welcome the extension of proxy voting to Members called for jury service. You will be aware that when summoned for jury service, a person is legally obliged to attend, unless there are compelling reasons why they are unable to. The expectation is that everyone who has been summoned for jury service will serve at the time for which they are summoned. This can create a challenging situation for Members seeking to fulfil their civic duty alongside their responsibilities to their constituents in the House. Although current slipping and pairing arrangements do provide a great deal of flexibility, your Committee may wish to assess the merits of allowing Members to apply for a proxy vote to fulfil these legal obligations.

I would be happy to provide evidence on behalf of the Government as part of any such inquiry and, should the Committee recommend an extension of proxy votes to those called for jury service, the Government would look to bring forward a motion for the consideration of the House at the earliest opportunity.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Whip and Mr Speaker.

[Redacted signature area]