



## Procedure Committee

**Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP**  
**Speaker of the House of Commons**  
*Via email only*

**13 March 2024**

*to Speaker*

### **Review of Standing Order No. 31**

Thank you for your letter of 4 March requesting that the Committee review the operation of Standing Order No. 31, which governs the way amendments to Opposition Day motions are dealt with. You will be aware that the Leader of the House also wrote to me on 29 February on this topic.

The Committee met on 11 March and discussed this matter in great depth and with robust debate. The Committee took the view that any inquiry into the operation of Standing Order No. 31 could not take place without an in-depth examination of the events of Wednesday 21 February. With respect to Standing Order No. 31, the Committee took the view that it was your decision to break with precedent in relation to the selection of amendments on Opposition Days, and that Standing Order No 31 remains as printed.

Moreover, the Committee concluded that its own powers under Standing Orders did not enable it to undertake as extensive an investigation as would be required, as the Committee's remit is limited to examining the practice and procedure of the House in the conduct of public business.

As such, the Committee felt that it would not be able to draw meaningful conclusions and make appropriate recommendations from such an inquiry. Therefore, following careful consideration, the Committee voted not to undertake an inquiry into this matter and to decline your request.

I am writing in similar terms to the Leader of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, and will place a copy of this letter on the Committee's website.

*Karen*

**Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP**  
**Chair of the Procedure Committee**