



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Attendance

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Lord McFall of Alcluith (Deputy Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Lord Judge
- Lord Laming
- Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Lord Wakeham

Apologies were received from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park. Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

The Lord Speaker explained that three papers had been circulated for agreement by correspondence and that responses should be submitted by Friday 8 January:

- C/19-12/84 – Paper from the Steering Group for Change, *Interim Report and Progress Dashboard on the Ellenbogen Report Recommendations*
- C/19-12/85 – Paper from the Clerk of the Parliaments, *Withdrawal of Retired Member Privileges*
- C/19-12/86 – Paper from the Commission Secretary, *External Member Recruitment*

On the third paper, the Lord Speaker said that the recruitment for Liz Hewitt's successor as an external member of the Commission was underway and that the deadline for applications was Friday 15 January.

I. External Management Review: Draft Report

Keith Leslie, External Reviewer and Liz Mohr, Deputy External Reviewer
C/19-21/87 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Lord Speaker welcomed Keith Leslie, the External Reviewer and Liz Mohr, the Deputy External Reviewer, to the meeting. Mr Leslie explained that the report had been largely finalised and that the final version would be formally delivered at the next Commission meeting, later in the month. The Lord Speaker thanked both Mr Leslie and Ms Mohr for their work.

Baroness Smith of Basildon suggested that the Commission should indicate their support for the report. Mr Leslie said that he would provide a cover note for the next meeting which would complement a paper on implementation from the Clerk of the

Parliaments. Commission members said that a six-month action plan would need to be drafted and agreed as soon as possible and that the action plan should include short-term priorities and assign responsibilities to the appropriate individuals and bodies. Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall said that senior staff would need to be engaged on implementation and that their ownership of the programme of change would be key to its successful delivery.

There was also a discussion about whether the report would be put to the House for debate and other options for engaging members. Finally, questions were asked about the make-up of the Oversight Panel and the accommodation arrangements for the new Clerk of the Parliaments and the Chief Operating Officer.

The Commission **noted** the Draft Report.

2. Any Other Business

The Lord Speaker suggested that Commission members raise any points related to the Prime Minister's address the previous day and the re-introduction of national restrictions related to Covid-19 which had entered into force that day.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

The Lord Speaker said that he, together with the political leaders and Convenor, would be writing to Members of the House explaining the plan for the continuance of business in a hybrid House, any changes to services offered to Members and the need for continued vigilance and compliance with the rules and guidance when on the Estate.

3. Next meeting

The Lord Speaker informed Commission members that the next meeting would take place via Microsoft Teams at a time to be determined during the week commencing Monday 18 January.

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