



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

DECISIONS

Wednesday 1 May 2024, 10:00am–11:30am
in the Lord Speaker's Room and via Teams

Attendance

- Lord Speaker (Chair)
- Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Deputy Chair)
- Earl of Kinnoull
- Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall
- Lord McLoughlin
- Charlotte Moar (external member)
- Lord Morse
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Scott of Needham Market
- Baroness Smith of Basildon

Other Members present:

- Earl of Courtown (attending under standing order 64)

Members of the Restoration and Renewal Programme Board present for item 5:

- Lord Collins of Highbury
- Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury
- Lord Vaux of Harrowden

Also in attendance:

Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments; Andy Helliwell, Chief Operating Officer; Chloe Mawson, Clerk Assistant; Alison Giles, Director of Security for Parliament; Sarah Clarke, Black Rod; Dominic Forbes, Portfolio Director, Strategic Estates; Catherine Hallett, Security Portfolio Director, Parliamentary Security Department.

Apologies were received from Lord True and Nora Senior (external member). The Commission agreed that the Earl of Courtown would attend the meeting in place of Lord True.

For Decision

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Commission agreed the record of the discussion of the meeting of the House of Lords Commission on 13 March 2024 with no amendments.

2. Integrated Visitor Management System Approach

C/23–24/16; [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- noted the drivers for visitor management improvements, and noted progress made to date in developing policy and a specification for an integrated Visitor Management System (VMS);
- endorsed the proposed approach to develop a scalable system which could be implemented incrementally according to risk profile, policy appetite and access needs; and
- discussed how the Commission wished to be consulted on developing policy for implementation of the Visitor Management System. The Commission requested that a paper on policy and implementation be discussed at a future meeting, ahead of any improvements being commissioned or implemented. In advance of this, Commission members would be consulted on policy work as development of the VMS proposals was progressed.

To Note

3. Abingdon Street Interim Fence

C/23–24/17; [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- noted the update on the Abingdon Street interim fence; and
- discussed the engagement proposals.

4. Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Update

C/23–24/18; [RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- noted the proposed priorities for the House of Lords Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) and the Joint ARAC with the House of Commons;

- discussed other areas of risk, internal control and governance that ARAC should consider; and
- agreed to consider at a future date a report from the joint meeting of the Lords Management Board and the Commons Executive Board on physical safety in Parliament, due to take place on Thursday 13 June 2024.

5. Restoration and Renewal Programme Board Update

The Commission:

- noted the update on the recent activity of the Restoration and Renewal Programme Board.

The Commission welcomed Michael Torrance to his new position as Lords Restoration and Renewal Director, and thanked Kate Meanwell for her work in that role over the last five years.

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