

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Notes of Discussion of the meeting held on 15 January 2024 at 4.30pm in Committee Room 5 [ND07]

Members present:

Sir Charles Walker (in the Chair)

John Cryer
Sir Michael Fabricant
Marion Fellows
Colleen Fletcher

Sir Greg Knight
Navendu Mishra
Mark Tami
Giles Watling

1. Informal Note

The Committee **agreed** the Informal Note of its meeting on 18 December.

2. Broadcasting, filming and photography rules

The Committee was briefed by Michael MacFarlane, Director of Broadcasting, Alasdair Rendall, Deputy Director for Communications (Media Relations), and Andy Martin, Head of Access.

Mr MacFarlane introduced himself to the Committee and updated that he had been recruited in Autumn 2023 to run broadcasting and video services, provide a strategic view of challenges in the wider industry and lead on technical developments.

Members discussed how Parliament could improve the representation of its business through parliamentlive.tv and other channels. Traditional mainstream broadcasters had reduced their broadcasting of parliamentary work.

The following points about broadcasting were discussed:

- Parliament must ensure that important Parliamentary work was not overshadowed by media-focused events, such as PMQs or controversial debates. Officials noted that explainer content, some of which was already in development, was essential to achieving this.
- The ability of broadcasters to broadcast live from Parliament varied because of the difference in technical infrastructure available to them.
- Broadcasting points in Central Lobby were originally meant for short interviews and contributions, as opposed to all-day broadcasting. With the changing nature of the broadcast sector there are many more of these contributions, so pressure has increased on the filming points there.
- The potential addition of further cameras in the Chamber.

Decision

The Committee **noted** this update.

3. Any other business

Committee action tracker

The Committee **noted** the action tracker.

Underground car park

The Committee **noted** the correspondence from Andy Martin, Head of Access, relating to use of electric sockets in Underground Car Park.

Sanitary systems

The Committee **noted** a letter from the Director of Maintenance on failure of sanitary systems in Portcullis House.

General Election Planning

The Committee **noted** a letter to Mr Speaker on matters related to General Election Planning.

Maintenance of lifts

The Committee **noted** a letter from the Director of Maintenance on maintenance of lifts.

The Committee will next meet on 22 January at 4.30pm.