



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

Cat Smith MP
Chair of the Procedure Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: LP/NMP239
8th October 2024

Dear Cat,

PROXY VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

As you will be aware, under Standing Order 39A Members are currently eligible for a proxy vote due to childbirth, care of an infant or newly adopted child, complications relating to childbirth, miscarriage or baby loss, and risk-based exclusion from the Parliamentary estate. However, the temporary arrangements in relation to proxy votes for Members suffering from long-term or serious illness expired at the end of the last Parliament.

It is my intention to bring forward a motion to reinstate eligibility for proxy votes to Members with long-term illness or injury until the end of the current Session. However, I understand that at the end of the last Parliament your predecessor Committee was in the process of consulting on proxy voting arrangements. Before asking the House to consider making these arrangements permanent, I would be grateful for any recommendations from your Committee.

I look forward to hearing the views of your Committee. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Yours,