

LIAISON COMMITTEE**MEETING ON 8 OCTOBER 2024 at 10.00AM****DECISIONS DOCUMENT***Present:*

Bichard, L.
Blencathra, L.
Kennedy of Southwark, L.
Garden of Frognal, B.
Gardiner of Kimble, L. (Chair)
Haskel, L.
Howe, E.
Kinnoull, E.
Walmsley, B.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Lord Bach and Lord Taylor of Holbeach.

The Chair welcomed Baroness Garden of Frognal to her first meeting of the Committee.

The Chair also welcomed Lord Kennedy of Southwark who was attending in place of Lord Collins of Highbury.

2. NORTHERN IRELAND SCRUTINY

The Chair introduced the proposal for a new Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee, from Lord Ricketts, Chair of the European Affairs Committee, and Lord Jay of Ewelme, the former Chair of the Windsor Framework Sub-Committee. The Chair noted the correspondence received from Lord Hain, Lord Lexden, Lord Dodds, Lord Empey and Baroness O’Loan.

The Committee *discussed* the proposal.

Lord Ricketts, Lord Jay of Ewelme and Jarek Wisniewski, Clerk of the European Affairs Committee, joined the meeting to discuss questions on the proposed committee. The Chair thanked them for their contributions.

The Committee *deliberated* further on the proposal and *agreed* to the appointment of a new committee on Northern Ireland Scrutiny and the proposed remit. The Committee considered a review period of two years for the committee but will confirm the review time frame by correspondence after further reflection.

The Committee *noted* that the staff team that worked on the Windsor Framework Sub-Committee have been retained, and therefore no additional resource is required.

The Chair *noted* that, subject to the agreement by the House of the Liaison Committee's recommendation, to be set out as usual in a report from the Committee, the new Committee will be appointed in January 2025, to coincide with the rotation rule and the appointment of the special inquiry committees.

3. CHAIRS' FORUM MINUTES

The Committee *noted* the informal minutes of the Chairs' Forum meeting in the 2023–24 Parliamentary Session.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee *noted* the letter from Lord Goldsmith, Chair of the International Agreements Committee (IAC), providing an update on the progress since the terms of reference of the IAC were amended a year ago.

The Chair *informed* the Committee of two possible bids for select committees, one on Skills and Lifelong Learning from Lord Aberdare and Lord Birt, and the second a recommendation from the Select Committee on Statutory Inquiries for the joint or Lords Committee on Public Inquiries.

The Committee *agreed* to consider the recommendation by the Select Committee on the Statutory Inquiries after the Government response has been received and the report has been debated in the House.

The Chair thanked Baroness Walmsley for her valuable service on the Committee as this would be her last meeting, and noted a replacement would be appointed in due course.

Lord Gardiner of Kimble

28 October 2024