



Formal Minutes of the Work and Pensions Committee in Session 2024–25

The Formal Minutes of a select committee record its formal proceedings and decisions.

They include:

- the names of the members who attended (all or part of) each meeting of the Committee;
- declarations of members' interests;
- details of written and oral evidence reported to the House by the Committee;
- any other formal decisions taken by the committee (recorded as 'orders' or 'resolutions'), for example to begin an inquiry, to report evidence to the House, to make a visit or to appoint a specialist adviser; and
- visits made by the Committee.

When the Committee publishes a Report, the Formal Minutes relating to consideration of the draft Report are published with the Report itself, and are not included in this document. You can find these reports on the Committee's webpages.

For more information about Formal Minutes, see [Erskine May paragraph 38.26](#).

Transcripts of oral evidence taken in public by the Committee are available on the Committee's webpages.

Attendance statistics for members of the Committee are available on the Committee's webpages.

Wednesday 30 October

Members present:

Debbie Abrahams, in the Chair

Johanna Baxter

Mr Peter Bedford

Neil Coyle

Steve Darling

Damien Egan

Gill German

Amanda Hack

John Milne

David Pinto-Duschinsky

Declarations of Interest

Members declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

Committee methods of working

Ordered, That the Committee examine witnesses in public, except where it otherwise orders.

Ordered, That Committee staff make arrangements to brief the Committee's oral witnesses prior to evidence sessions.

Resolved, That witnesses who submit written evidence to the Committee are authorised to publish it on their own account in accordance with Standing Order No. 135, subject always to the discretion of the Chair or where the Committee otherwise orders.

Resolved, That the Committee shall not consider individual cases.

Resolved, That the Chair have discretion to:

- a) report correspondence or written evidence to the House between meeting of the Committee in order to enable its publication.

- b) engage in correspondence on Committee matters which is not sufficiently significant to require approval by the Committee or is of a routine nature;
 - c) arrange informal meetings in Westminster relating to the Committee's remit;
 - d) amend the timing of Committee meetings, where necessary;
 - e) authorise the issuing of press notices about forthcoming evidence sessions, new inquiries and reports;
 - f) take decisions on which parliamentary proceedings Committee reports should be tagged for debate and to propose reports to the Liaison Committee for debate;
 - g) agree the circulated agenda for Committee meetings (subject to the right of any Committee member to raise issues for the Committee to consider); and
- take decisions which are consequential on matters already decided by the Committee or which are urgent.

Future Programme

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the work of her department.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Safeguarding vulnerable claimants.

Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Child Poverty Strategy

Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, relating to the Child Poverty Strategy

Employment Rights Bill

Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, relating to the Employment Rights Bill

Statutory Sick Pay

Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, relating to the launch of a consultation on the rate of Statutory Sick Pay

Disability Confident

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability, responding to the Committee's recommendations to review The Disability

Confident scheme, dated 28 October 2024 (including an accompanying document: 'The Disability Confident Review: Update on findings and recommendations')

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 6 November at 9.30am.

Wednesday 6 November

Members present:

Debbie Abrahams, in the Chair

Johanna Baxter

Mr Peter Bedford

Neil Coyle

Steve Darling

Damien Egan

Gill German

Amanda Hack

John Milne

David Pinto-Duschinsky

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 13 November at 9.00am.

Wednesday 13 November

Members present:

Debbie Abrahams, in the Chair

Johanna Baxter

Mr Peter Bedford

Neil Coyle

Steve Darling

Damien Egan
Gill German
Amanda Hack
John Milne
David Pinto-Duschinsky

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Carers Allowance

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability responding to the previous Committee's letter on Carer's Allowance

Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, relating to the Government response to the predecessor Committee's Defined Benefit Pension Schemes report

Implementation of Universal Credit

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability, relating to the implementation of Universal Credit.

Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman report

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, responding to the predecessor Committee's letter on the Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman's report: Women's State Pension age: our findings on injustice and associated issues

Responses to reports and correspondence

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, relating to responses to reports and correspondence from the predecessor Committee.

The work of the Department for Work and Pensions

Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP, Secretary of State, and Sir Peter Schofield, Permanent Secretary, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 20 November at 9.30am.

Appendix: Declarations of interest by members of the Committee and specialist advisers

(i) Members of the Committee

Interests declared in addition to those registered in the Register of Members' Financial Interests as at 30 October 2024.

Debbie Abrahams

Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health <https://www.fph.org.uk/> (non-financial) since 2014

Member of Unison

Member of Unite

Member of the Fabian Society

Member of the Co-operative Party

Johanna Baxter

Member of GMB Union

Member of Communication Workers Union

Member of the Fabian Society

Member of the Co-operative Party

Mr Peter Bedford

Nil

Neil Coyle

Co-chair of the APPG on Ending the Need for Foodbanks. The APPG receives secretariat services from the Trussell Trust

Member of the Fabian Society

Member of the Co-operative Party

Member of Unite The Union

Steve Darling

Nil

Damien Egan

Trustee of the Jewish Museum London. This is an unpaid role.

Member of Unison

Member of Usdaw

Member of the Co-operative Party

Gill German

Non-executive Director at Denbighshire Leisure Limited. This is an unpaid role.

Date interest ended: 15 July 2024

Member of Unison

Member of Usdaw

Member of the Co-operative Party

Amanda Hack

Member of GMB Union

Member of the Co-operative Party

John Milne

Nil

David Pinto-Duschinsky

Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts. This is an unpaid role.

Governor of Sunnyfields Primary School. This is an unpaid role.

Member of the GMB Union

Member of Unison

Member of Unite The Union

Member of the Fabian Society

Member of the Co-operative Party