



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

Tuesday 18 December 2018

Attendance

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Baroness Doocey
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
- Lord Hope of Craighead
- Lord Laming
- Lord McFall of Alcluith
- Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Lord Wakeham

Liz Hewitt (external member) participated by telephone conference. Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Commission agreed the record of discussion of the previous meeting of the House of Lords Commission on 5 November 2018.

2. Medium Term Financial Plan and 2018-19 Forecast Outturn and Supplementary Estimate

Paper from Mostaque Ahmed, Director of Finance and Jonathan Smith, Head of Finance C/17-19/66 RESERVED & CONFIDENTIAL.

Mostaque Ahmed, Director of Finance, introduced the Medium Term Financial Plan. He summarised the Plan and explained that much of the increased spending would be allocated to the R&R Programme and continuing works on the Estate. Baroness Doocey, Chairman of the Finance Committee, explained that the Finance Committee were content with the Plan. However, she expressed concerns about the costs associated with many Category A projects. At the suggestion of Baroness Evans of Bowes Park, the Commission **agreed** that the new Managing Director of Strategic Estates should be invited to the Commission in the new year to discuss their forward plan and strategy.

Jonathan Smith, Head of Finance, introduced the 2018-19 Forecast Outturn and Supplementary Estimate. He explained that this had been approved by the Finance Committee and that the endorsement by the Commission was required. He drew specific attention to the market value adjustment for 5 Great College Street.

The Commission **approved** the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 to 2021/22.

The Commission **noted** the forecast outturn for 2018-19 and **agreed** the Supplementary Estimate, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

3. 2018 Gender-Sensitive Parliament Audit

Paper from Dominique Gracia and Sarah Petit, Secretaries to the Gender-Sensitive Parliament Audit Panel and co-presented by Baroness Thornton, Audit Panel member
C/17-19/67 RESERVED & CONFIDENTIAL

Dominique Gracia, Secretary to the Audit Panel, and Baroness Thornton, Audit Panel member, presented the paper. Miss Gracia explained the background to the report and Baroness Thornton outlined the action points in the Report. The Commission welcomed the report, which brought together a significant amount of information and highlighted a range of issues to be addressed.

The Commission **took note** of the report.

The Commission discussed the publication of a statement to welcome the Report and discussed the timing and the communications plan. The Commission **agreed** to publish a news story welcoming the Report on Thursday 20 December. The Commission **agreed** to provide a full response on behalf of the House in the spring.

4. History of Parliament Trust: budget proposal and Business Plan

Paper from Mostaque Ahmed, Director of Finance and Business Plan from HPT Trustees
C/17-19/68 RESERVED & CONFIDENTIAL

After a brief discussion the Commission **decided** to defer this paper to the January meeting.

5. Security Programme and Murphy Review Update

Paper from Eric Hepburn, Director of Security of Parliament, Fay Tennet, Deputy Director of Security and Ian Dougal, Head of Security Projects
C/17-19/69 RESERVED & CONFIDENTIAL

Eric Hepburn, Director of Security of Parliament and Fay Tennet, Deputy Director of Security presented this paper. Ms Tennet began by explaining the history of the Murphy report and its recommendations. She also explained the reasoning and continued work on any outstanding recommendations.

[More Information – Restricted Access]

The Commission **took note** of the paper.

6. Update on the House of Lords Administration

Paper from Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/17-19/70 RESERVED & CONFIDENTIAL

The Clerk of the Parliaments began by updating the Commission on the results of the staff survey which had been published on the intranet the day before and outlined his concerns about some of the results.

He also confirmed that the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme (ICGS) was available to staff employed by, or working for, both Houses and House of Commons Members and their staff and that the Privileges and Conduct Committee in this House would be examining how to make this available to Lords Members and their staff.

The Commission noted that this may need to be reflected on in the light of the recent Privileges and Conduct case regarding Lord Lester of Herne Hill.

The Commission **took note** of the paper.

7. Any Other Business

Liz Hewitt updated the Commission on the independent inquiry on Bullying and Harassment in the House of Lords. She explained that she and Mathew Duncan had selected and appointed an independent Inquirer, Naomi Ellenbogen QC. The agreed terms of reference for the inquiry and the Inquirer's CV were provided.

The Clerk of the Parliaments confirmed that the results from the Staff Survey would be made available to the Inquirer.

Mr Duncan provided further information on the scope of the inquiry and confirmed that it would cover a 6-year period, mirroring the House of Commons Inquiry which had been conducted by Dame Laura Cox DBE.

The Commission **noted** the appointment of Naomi Ellenbogen QC, **noted** the terms of reference and **noted** that the independent Inquiry would be launched the following day.

The Commission discussed the recent decision of the House in respect of the Privileges and Conduct Committee case concerning Lord Lester of Herne Hill. After discussion, the Commission **decided** to rescind his access privileges as a member who had resigned from the House under section 1 of the House of Lords Reform Act 2014 with immediate effect until 3 June 2022.

The Lord Speaker thanked Commission members for their efforts over the last year and informed the Commission that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 23 January 2019 at 10.30am in his Room.

18 December 2018

Patrick Milner
Secretary to the Commission
020 7219 6644
milnerp@parliament.uk