

Formal Minutes of the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Tuesday 15 October 2019

Members present:

Mr Bernard Jenkin, in the Chair¹

Kelvin Hopkins
Mr David Jones

Eleanor Smith

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. 2021 Census

Ordered, That the letter from Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, Office for Statistics Regulation, of 4 October be reported to the House for publication.

3. E-petition

Resolved, That the Committee notes the Government response to e-petition “Politicians who changes parties should have to go through a new By Election.”

4. Follow up to PHSO report ‘Missed Opportunities’

William Vineall, Director of Acute Care and Quality Policy, Department for Health and Social Care, Professor Tim Kendall, National Clinical Director for Mental Health, NHS England and NHS Improvement and Nadine Dorries MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety gave evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 21 October at 11.45am]

¹ Mr Jenkin was elected as the Chair of the Committee on 12 July 2017, in accordance with Standing Order No. 122B (see House of Commons Votes and Proceedings, 12 July 2017).

Monday 21 October 2019

Members present:

Mr Bernard Jenkin, in the Chair

Ronnie Cowan
Dame Cheryl Gillan
Kelvin Hopkins

Dr Rupa Huq
Mr David Jones
Eleanor Smith

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Annual canvass reform

Ordered, That the letter from Kevin Foster MP, Interim Minister for the Constitution, of 15 October be reported to the House for publication.

3. Civil Service impartiality and no deal planning

Ordered, That the letter from Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary and John Manzoni, Chief Executive of the Civil Service and Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office, of 16 October be reported to the House for publication.

3. The Role of Parliament in the UK Constitution: Role of the Speaker

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *The Role of Parliament in the UK Constitution: Role of the Speaker*, be reported to the House for publication: Sir David Natzler.

4. Special advisers

Ordered, That the Chair write to Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary, on special advisers.

5. Electoral Law

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *Electoral law*, be reported to the House for publication: Andy Erlam.

Kevin Foster MP, Interim Minister for the Constitution, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 October at 9.30am]

Tuesday 22 October 2019

Members present:

Mr Bernard Jenkin, in the Chair

Ronnie Cowan
Kelvin Hopkins
Mr David Jones

David Morris
Eleanor Smith

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Role of Parliament in the UK Constitution: Role of the Speaker

Dr Paul Seaward, Director of the History of Parliament Trust and Lord Lisvane, Clerk of the House of Commons 2011-2014 gave oral evidence.

Natascha Engel, Deputy Speaker 2015-2017 and Lord Young, Leader of the House 2010-12 gave oral evidence.

Professor Lord Norton, Professor of Government and Director of the Centre for Legislative Studies University of Hull, Dr Ruth Fox, Director of Hansard Society, and Dr Hannah White, Deputy Director, Institute for Government gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 31 October at 2.00pm]

Thursday 31 October 2019

Members present:

Mr Bernard Jenkin, in the Chair

Kelvin Hopkins
Mr David Jones

David Morris

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Ministerial Responsibilities

Ordered, That the letter from John Manzoni, Chief Executive of the Civil Service and Permanent Secretary of the Cabinet Office, dated 12 September, on Ministerial responsibilities be reported to the House for publication.

3. Work of the UK Statistics Authority

Ordered, That the letter from David Norgrove, Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, dated 22 October, on the recent work of the UK Statistics Authority be reported to the House for publication.

4. National Statistician

Ordered, That the letter from Sir Ian Diamond, National Statistician, dated 22 October, on his appointment be reported to the House for publication.

5. Governance of Statistics

Ordered, That the letter from Kevin Foster MP, Interim Minister for the Constitution, dated 23 October, on the Governance of Statistics be reported to the House for publication.

6. Operation of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act

Ordered, That the letter from the Chair to Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary, dated 23 October, on the operation of the Fixed Term Parliament Act be reported to the House for publication.

Ordered, That the letter from Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary to the Chair, dated 28 October, on the operation of the Fixed Term Parliament Act be reported to the House for publication.

7. Authorising the Use of Military Force

Draft Special Report *Government Response to the Committee's 20th Report of Session 2017–19: The Role of Parliament in the UK Constitution: Authorising the Use of*

Military Force, proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Twentieth Report from the Committee of Session 2017-19 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

8. Electoral Law

Resolved, That the Committee notes the Government response to e-petition "Halt all efforts to introduce ID checks at polling stations".

Draft Report *Electoral Law: The Urgent Need for Review*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the first Report of the Committee, HC 244.

9. Follow up to PHSO report 'Missed Opportunities'

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *Follow up to PHSO report 'Missed Opportunities'*, be reported to the House for publication: NHS England and Improvement East.

Draft Report *Follow up on PHSO report: Missed opportunities: What lessons can be learned from failings at the North Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the second Report of the Committee, HC 31.

10. The Government's Management of Major Projects

Draft Report *The Government's Management of Major Projects: An Interim Report*, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the third Report of the Committee, HC 303.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5 November at 9.30am]

Tuesday 5 November 2019

Members present:

Mr Bernard Jenkin, in the Chair

Kelvin Hopkins
Mr David Jones

David Morris

1. Census 2021

Ordered, That the letter from Iain Bell, Deputy National Statistician and Director General for Population & Public Policy, dated 1 November, on the 2021 Census be reported to the House for publication.

2. Special Advisers

Ordered, That the letter from the Chair to Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary, dated 2 October, on contracts for special advisers, be reported to the House for publication.

Ordered, That the letter from Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary to the Chair dated 11 October, on contracts for special advisers, be reported to the House for publication.

Ordered, That the letter from the Chair to Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary, dated 21 October, on contracts for special advisers, be reported to the House for publication.

Ordered, That the letter from Sir Mark Sedwill, Cabinet Secretary to the Chair, dated 4 November, on contracts for special advisers, be reported to the House for publication.

3. Government Financial Reporting Review

James Bowler, Director General, Public Spending, HM Treasury, Mike Driver, Chief Financial Officer, Ministry of Justice and Head of Government Finance Function, HM Treasury, and Vicky Rock, Interim Director, Public Spending Group, HM Treasury and Interim Deputy Head of Government Finance Function gave oral evidence.

[The Committee adjourned]