

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums
Act 2000



The Speaker

Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission

First Report of 2025

Re-appointment of an Electoral Commissioner

Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission

The Speaker's Committee is a statutory body whose role is defined by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as amended by the Elections Act 2022, and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The work of the Committee relates to the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The Committee reviews the annual estimates of the resources the Electoral Commission and LGBCE, in order to ensure they are consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge of their functions. It also considers the two organisations' five-year plans.

The Speaker's Committee oversees the recruitment processes for the Chair of the Electoral Commission, Electoral Commissioners and the Chair of the LGBCE. The candidates for these posts are then approved by the House of Commons and appointed by the King.

The Speaker's Committee also has the power to examine the performance by the Electoral Commission of the Commission's duty to have regard to a Strategy and Policy Statement. The Committee is one of the three bodies the Government is statutorily required to consult before the Secretary of State can lay a Strategy and Policy Statement for Parliament's approval.

Current membership

[Rt hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP](#) (Speaker; Chorley) (Chair)

[Rushanara Ali MP](#) (Labour; Bethnal Green and Stepney)

[Florence Eshalomi MP](#) (Labour; Vauxhall and Camberwell Green)

[Stephen Gethins MP](#) (Scottish National Party; Arbroath and Broughty Ferry)

[Simon Hoare MP](#) (Conservative; North Dorset)

[Rachel Hopkins MP](#) (Labour; Luton South and South Bedfordshire)

[Jim McMahon MP](#) (Labour; Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton)

[Rt hon. Angela Rayner MP](#) (Labour; Ashton-under-Lyne)

[Lisa Smart MP](#) (Liberal Democrat; Hazel Grove)

[Rt hon. Sir Jeremy Wright KC MP](#) (Conservative; Kenilworth and Southam)

Powers

The Speaker's Committee is appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendum Act 2000 to perform the functions conferred on it by that Act.

Publication

Presented to the House of Commons pursuant to paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 2 to Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

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Committee reports are published on the Committee's [website](#) and in print by Order of the House.

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Re-appointment of an Electoral Commissioner

1. The Electoral Commission was established by Parliament as a body independent of Government. The Chair of the Electoral Commission and the other Electoral Commissioners are appointed by His Majesty the King, following an Address from the House of Commons. The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”), as amended by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2009 (“the 2009 Act”), provides for the Electoral Commission to have nine or ten Commissioners.¹ The Commission comprises:
 - Up to six ‘ordinary’ Commissioners who are subject to restrictions on political activity and who are recruited by competition, under a procedure put in place and overseen by the Speaker’s Committee; and
 - Four ‘nominated’ Commissioners, who are persons put forwards by the registered leader of a qualifying party for consideration for appointment.
2. The current term of office of Dame Elan Closs Stephens, the ordinary Commission with special responsibility for Wales, comes to an end on 12 March 2025.
3. The Speaker’s Committee on the Electoral Commission is required by section 3 of the 2000 Act, as amended by the 2009 Act, to oversee the procedure for selecting candidates for appointment to the Electoral Commission. Under section 3(5A), this duty encompasses the recommendation of candidates for re-appointment. There is no presumption in the statute either for or against re-appointment.

Dame Elan Closs Stephens

4. Dame Elan Closs Stephens has served as an Electoral Commissioner since 13 March 2017. A letter of 9 July 2024 from John Pullinger, Chair of the Electoral Commissioner, asked the Speaker’s Committee to consider

1 S1(3) of the 2000 Act as amended by s6 of the 2009 Act

whether to recommend the re-appointment of Dame Elan for a further, final term of two years. We considered this letter at our first meeting of the new Parliament on 4 December 2024.

5. John Pullinger told us that he supported Dame Elan's re-appointment as she has been an effective and valuable Commissioner, bringing significant experience of electoral processes through her breadth of experience as a board member. He said that she had "brought deep knowledge of the political environment in Wales and is well respected among stakeholders." John also noted that Elan's strong contribution to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee had been especially valuable.
6. We consulted the Llywydd of Senedd Cymru on Dame Elan's re-appointment and, having considered this feedback, agreed to recommend Dame Elan for re-appointment, subject to the statutory consultation with party leaders. An extension to Dame Elan's term would mean that she would be serving on the Commission Board for the next Senedd elections in 2026.
7. Section 3(2)(b) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as amended, also requires that the proposal to appoint (or re-appoint) a member of the Electoral Commission be the subject of consultation with the registered leader of each registered party to which two or more Members of the House of Commons then belong. Mr Speaker accordingly wrote to the leaders of the qualifying parties on 3 February 2025 about the re-appointment of Dame Elan. No objections or concerns were received in response to the Speaker's consultation.
8. Appointments to the Electoral Commission are made by His Majesty on an Address from the House of Commons. **The Speaker's Committee commends to the House the reappointment of Dame Elan Closs Stephens for a further, two-year term.**

List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

Session 2024–25

Number	Title	Reference
None	Second Report 2024 – Work of the Committee in 2023–24	HC 498