



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Minutes

Wednesday 10 February 2021

Attendance

- Lord Speaker (Chairman)
- Lord McFall of Alcluith (Deputy Chairman)
- Mathew Duncan (external member)
- Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
- Lord German
- Lord Judge
- Lord Newby
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Lord Touhig
- Lord Vaux of Harrowden

Apologies were received from Lord Hill of Oareford. Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

The Lord Speaker explained that the meeting had been arranged to discuss certain recommendations arising from the External Management Review. He welcomed Lord Vaux of Harrowden, Chair of the Finance Committee, Lord Touhig, Chair of the Services Committee, and Lord German to their first meeting. He thanked them for agreeing to serve the House as members of the Commission.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

He thanked Commission members for agreeing the External Management Review communications on Tuesday 26 January, including the recommendation that a programme director be appointed, the Audit Committee paper on membership changes on Thursday 28 January (HC/19-21/98), and the paper from the Clerk of the Parliaments on rapid testing on the Parliamentary Estate (HC/19-21/99), also on Thursday 28 January. He also thanked the Clerk of the Parliaments for the weekly Covid-19 updates.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Commission agreed the record of discussions of their previous meeting of the on 22 January 2021.

2. External Management Review

External Management Review: next steps

Lord Speaker

C/19-21/101 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

External Management Review: next steps

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments

C/19-21/102 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

External Management Review: Final Report (for reference)

Keith Leslie, External Reviewer and Liz Mohr, Deputy External Reviewer

C/19-21/92 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Lord Speaker presented his paper and spoke to the five specific recommendations which had been identified for early action.

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** that:

- The development of the job description for the new role of Chief Operating Officer should start straight away, the recruitment should begin as soon as possible and that a recruitment company should be engaged for this purpose;
- The key internal roles to support the implementation of the review (the programme director and the Commission secretariat) as well as the enhanced role of the Commission should be put in place as soon as possible;
- Subject to approval by the House, the Clerk of the Parliaments and the Chief Operating Officer should become non-voting members of the Commission; and
- There should be no short-term work to place the Commission's role and powers on a statutory basis.

The Commission **agreed** that communications about the early decisions should be sent to both members and staff.

Further consideration was required to explore how a Panel/Group might support the Commission's oversight of the implementation of the review and who should sit on the Panel/Group. The Lord Speaker would consult Commission members on the role and membership of the Panel/Group.

The Commission were also informed that the Management Board had agreed a new approach to communications and endorsed a refreshed set of values and behaviours to be launched later in the Spring.

3. Restoration and Renewal

Letter from Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body to Mr Speaker

C/19-21/103 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Letter from the Lord Speaker to Mr Speaker and Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body

C/19-21/104 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Lord Speaker drew Commission members' attention to the two letters which related to the programme mandate and the development of a 'continued presence' option for the House of Commons. The Clerk of the Parliaments provided a summary of the House of Commons Commission meeting of Monday 8 February.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

The Clerk of the Parliaments updated the Commission on the meeting of the Sponsor Board on Monday 8 February.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

The Clerk of the Parliaments said that the House of Commons Commission would meet again on Monday 22 February, when the Sponsor Body and Delivery Authority would return with further information on the funding request, as requested, and that a funding request would be presented at the House of Lords Commission meeting on Friday 26 February.

[Restricted Access – More Information].

After discussion, the Commission **noted** the letters.

4. Next meeting

The Lord Speaker informed Commission members that the next meeting would take place via Microsoft Teams on Friday 26 February.

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