



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

DECISIONS

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 10:00am–12:00 midday
in Committee Room 1

Attendance

- Lord Speaker (Chair)
- Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Deputy Chair)
- Earl of Kinnoull
- Lord McLoughlin
- Charlotte Moar (external member)
- Lord Morse
- Baroness Pitkeathley
- Lord Purvis of Tweed
- Baroness Scott of Needham Market
- Lord True

Other Members present:

- Lord Collins of Highbury (attending under standing order 64)

Also in attendance:

- Lord Vaux of Harrowden

Also in attendance:

Fehintola Akinlose, Finance and Commercial Director; Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments; Marianne Cwynarski, Director General, House of Commons; Edward Davis, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod; Chris Elliott, Managing Director of Strategic Estates; Alison Giles, Director of Security for Parliament; Andy Helliwell, Chief Operating Officer; Alix Langley, Human Resources Director; Chloe Mawson, Clerk Assistant; and Charlotte Simmonds, Managing Director, Restoration and Renewal Client Team.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Commission agreed the record of the discussion of the meeting of the House of Lords Commission on 23 July 2025 with redactions.

2. Update from the Clerk of the Parliaments

Clerk of the Parliaments' Update Paper [RESTRICTED]

3. Security and Public Access to the Chamber

C/24-25/61 [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- noted the immediate decisions taken to suspend public tour access to the Chambers beyond the bar until assurance around search capability was obtained and the matter of public tour access to each chamber was reviewed by the relevant Commission;
- considered the proposal for public tour access beyond the bar to be permanently suspended during sitting periods, but restored during recess periods of more than 2 weekdays, assured by an enhanced search capability and sufficient resource to staff the separation between public and Member tours;
- agreed to the arrangements on a temporary basis, pending a review at its October meeting once an assessment of search capability and staff resources had been made; and
- agreed that the Services Committee should review the wider access and participation implications, and report to the Commission for its October meeting.

4. Update on Activation of CCTV

C/24-25/62 [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- endorsed the Services Committee's recommendation that activation of CCTV cameras along the visitor route (line of route) in the House of Lords be continued on a 24/7 basis, during sitting and non-sitting times.

5. Organisational Effectiveness Review: response

C/24–25/57 [RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- endorsed the strategic direction set out by the Lord Speaker;
- agreed the delivery approach; and
- agreed that the Clerk of the Parliaments would share the report and responses with senior leaders to assist with delivery.

6. Update on Strategic Estates
C/24/25/58 [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- noted the update;
- endorsed the House of Commons management recommendations; and
- approved the establishment of a Strategic Property Client.

7. Peers' Entrance Report: Review and Recommendations
C/24–25/59 [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- endorsed the report by Lord Morse to the Lord Speaker; and
- agreed to publish it on the Commission's webpage after Conference Recess, with security sensitive information removed.

8. Restoration and Renewal Programme: temporary accommodation proposals under the Enhanced Maintenance and Improvement (EMI) option
C/24–25/60 [RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- noted the position of the Lords Decant Sponsor Board that, under EMI+, it would be expedient for West Front zones B and C to move to the QEII Centre at the same time as West Front zone A; and
- noted the current proposals for decanting the House of Lords under the R&R EMI delivery option, which will be included in the Client Board's costed proposals report.

Alasdair Love
Secretary to the Commission
020 7219 5848
lovea@parliament.uk

Raquel Fernández Vidal and Julicha Vardalia
Executive Officers to the Commission
hlcommission@parliament.uk