



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

DECISIONS

Wednesday 4 March 2026 10:00am–12:00 midday
in Committee Room 1

Attendance

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

Also in attendance:

- Earl Howe (attending under Standing Order 64)

Apologies were received from Lord True.

Officials also in attendance:

Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments; Ed Davis, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod; Christine Evans, Senior Responsible Owner; Mark Harbord, Chief Information Security Officer; Andy Helliwell, Chief Operating Officer; Luke Hussey, Director of Digital Value; Paul Martin, Interim Director of Parliamentary Security; Chloe Mawson, Clerk Assistant; Sarah Rayner, Chief Commercial Officer; and Andy Smith, Managing Director, Parliamentary Digital Service.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Commission agreed the record of the discussion of the meeting of the House of Lords Commission on 21 January 2026 with redactions.

2. Report from the Clerk of the Parliaments

Clerk of the Parliaments' Report [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

3. Report from the Interim Director of Parliamentary Security

Interim Director of Parliamentary Security's Report [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

4. Access rights for departing hereditary peers and former members

C/24–26/81 [RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- agreed that, subject to the House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill receiving Royal Assent, hereditary peers who cease to be members at the end of the 2024-26 session should be entitled to the same access rights as members who retire under the House of Lords Reform Act 2014;
- agreed that peers who ceased to be members in 1999 should have their current access rights adjusted to reflect those of other former members; and
- agreed that further work should be undertaken on the rules on facilities and services for all former Members, in consultation with the Services Committee.

5. Palace of Westminster External Fabric Conservation

C/24–26/82 [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The Commission noted and provided feedback on the Fabric Conservation Project.

6. Report on Digital Services

C/24–26/83 [RESTRICTED]

The Commission:

- agreed that work should proceed to digitise the administration of Members' allowance claims;
- noted the report and considered the ambition for the use of digital for House services; and
- provided feedback on further measures that should be taken to strengthen the Parliamentary Digital Service's relationship with Members.

7. Cyber and Information security – current work and future improvements
C/24-26/84 [HIGHLY RESTRICTED]

The Commission noted and endorsed the current and proposed work ongoing in this area.

Any Other Business

R&R Phase I Expenditure Limit

The Commission agreed to revise the phase I expenditure limit to £540m.

R&R Delivery Authority Board Chair

The Commission agreed to renew the appointment of Dr Simon Thurley CBE as Chair of the Delivery Authority Board for three years from 1 April 2026.

Alasdair Love
Secretary to the Commission

Raquel Fernández Vidal and Julie Vardalia
Executive Officers to the Commission