

Formal Minutes 2026

Minutes of meeting on 23 April 2026

Members of the Commission present:

Ms Nusrat Ghani MP, Chair

Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Nick Smith MP
Lord MacPherson of Earl's Court GCB	

1. Minutes of last meeting

The Commission agreed the minutes of the meeting of 12 May 2025.

2. Parliamentary Works Grant: Main Estimate 2026/27

The Commission considered a letter of 26 March 2026 from the Corporate Officers which provided the latest Phase 1 cost assessment. It was noted that the Delivery Authority's latest Phase 1 cost assessment was £540 million and that the Phase 1 expenditure limit had been revised to £540 million. This being the case, the Estimate Commission would be statutorily required to lay the 2026/27 estimate, with no power to reject it, as the cost assessment did not exceed the expenditure limit.

The Commission considered a letter of 21 April 2026 from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury providing advice on the Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate.

The Commission agreed to write to the Chief Secretary seeking clarification on whether he found the Delivery Authority's proposed Estimate and spending plans for 2026/27 to be 'taut and realistic' and also to seek assurance that he supported the Estimate.

3. Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate 2026/27: Briefing and questions

The Commission was briefed by Louise McNair, Senior Financial Scrutiny Specialist, Scrutiny Unit, ahead of the meeting on 29 April 2026 and considered the suggested questions for the evidence session on the Main Estimate.

4. Any other business

The Commission considered a draft letter to the Corporate Officers on the Commission's resources and access to external expert advice.

[The Commission adjourned to 29 April 2026]

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Ms Nusrat Ghani MP, Chair

Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Nick Smith MP
Lord MacPherson of Earl's Court GCB	

1. Minutes of last meetings

The Commission agreed the minutes of meeting on 23 April 2026.

2. Consideration of papers and advice on Main Estimate 2026/27

The Commission agreed to publish:

- a letter from the Corporate Officers to the Chair of the Commission, regarding the Phase One Cost Assessment, dated 26 March 2026.
- letters from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, providing advice on the Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate for 2026/27, dated 21 April 2026 and 29 April 2026.
- memorandum to the Parliamentary Works Grant - Main Estimate for 2026/27.

3. Discussion on lines of questioning for public evidence session

The Commission confirmed the lines of questioning.

In public

4. Public hearing: Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate 2026/27

The Commission heard evidence from:

- Tom Goldsmith, Clerk of the House of Commons
- Chloe Mawson OBE, Clerk of the Parliaments
- Russ MacMillan, Chief Executive, Restoration and Renewal Delivery Authority
- Charlotte Simmonds, Managing Director, Restoration and Renewal Client Team

In private

5. Consideration of Parliamentary Works Grant Main Estimate 2026/27

Commissioners reflected on the evidence session and agreed to meet early in the new Parliamentary session to agree Comments on the main estimate.

6. Any other business

The Chair recorded her thanks to Lord Gardner for his service to the Commission since 2021. Commissioners also noted their gratitude for his contribution and commitment to the Commission's work.

There was no other business.

[The Commission adjourned to 18 May 2026]