

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

Monday 22 March 2021 at 10.15 am
Meeting in the Speaker's Office
and via Microsoft Teams

Present:

The Speaker, in the Chair
Jacob Rees-Mogg
Valerie Vaz
Sir Charles Walker
Dame Rosie Winterton
Pete Wishart
Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House)
Ian Ailles (Director General)
Dr Rima Makarem (External member)

Apologies:

Jane McCall (External member)

DECISIONS

COMMISSION/MEC

1. ICGS 18-MONTH REVIEW

The Commission endorsed changes to the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme (ICGS) recommended by the 18-month review, with the intention of simplifying, streamlining and improving the operation of ICGS cases. In particular, the Commission endorsed:

- **The retention of the factual accuracy check as the key means of review of a formal assessment, and the removal of the existing right of the complainant to a review (though retaining the right to a review of the initial assessment).**
- **The imposition of a time limit, in bullying and harassment cases, for making a complaint of one year from the date of the incident(s) or alleged behaviour complained of. There would continue to be no time limit in cases of sexual misconduct. From the date of the implementation of the limitation period, a grace period of one year would also be applied to allow any remaining non-recent claims to be made, regardless of when they are alleged to have happened.**

The Commission also endorsed some minor textual changes to the ICGS policies and procedures, which were not specifically mentioned in the 18-month review, to improve their structure and clarify some points that have arisen in the course of their operation over the past two years.

The Commission noted that the revised ICGS policies and procedures would now be put to the House for approval.

The Commission endorsed the proposed new governance arrangements for the ICGS, including the creation of a new Change Control Group.

The Commission agreed the recommendation regarding the proposed establishment of a bicameral group to consider cluster reporting.

The Commission agreed that all Members should attend Valuing Everyone training and noted that most Members had already done so. It agreed that the names of Members who have attended the training will be published from time to time, with early notification given of when the information will be published. While the Commission is not of the view that a three-year “refresh” is necessary, it will ask the House Authorities to look to refresh the content every five years or so, and/or at the beginning of a new Parliament.

2. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission/MEC will take place on Monday 19 April 2021 at 10.00 am in the Speaker’s Study and via Microsoft Teams.