



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Decisions

Friday 26 February 2021

Attendance

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

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

The Lord Speaker thanked Commission members for considering the following items by correspondence:

- The report of the 18-month review of the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme (ICGS) by Alison Stanley. The Lord Speaker explained that it had been published on Monday 22 February and that it would be formally considered at the Commission meeting on Friday 26 March;
- An initial draft of the Corporate Business Plan 2021-22 by Jake Vaughan, the Reading Clerk and Director of Corporate Services, ahead of the formal consideration at the Commission meeting on Friday 26 March; and
- The draft Commission report on the Withdrawal of Retired Member Privileges. The Lord Speaker explained that a paper setting out the background and options had been circulated on 21 December 2020 and agreed by correspondence on 8 January and that the agreed report would be published the following week and then put to the House for agreement.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Commission agreed the record of discussion of the previous meeting on 10 February 2021.

2. **Restoration and Renewal**

Quarterly Report: Q3 2020/21

Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body

C/19-21/108 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Phase I Expenditure Limit, Annex A and Annex B
Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body
C/19-21/109 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Letter from Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body, to the Lord Speaker of 22 February (Phase I Funding)
C/19-21/115 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** a revised Phase I Expenditure Limit of £263m to reflect the funding requested for the financial year 2021/22 (£155,613,000) and **agreed** that the Lord Speaker should write to Ms Johnson accordingly.

3. Medium Term Financial Plan

Jonathan Smith, Head of Finance
C/19-21/110 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **agreed** the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021-22 to 2023-24, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

4. Letter from Baroness Donaghy, Chair of the Steering Group for Change, to the Lord Speaker, 27 January

C/19-21/111 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** that the Lord Speaker should speak with Baroness Donaghy, the Chair of the Steering Group for Change, about the issues raised in the letter.

5. COVID-19 Measures on the House of Lords Estate: Roadmap

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/19-21/112 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

After discussion, the Commission:

- **Agreed** to continue to act in accordance with the public health advice (including social distancing in the Chamber and wider Lords Estate), insofar as possible to maintain a single set of standards applicable across the Estate, in collaboration with the House of Commons, and that any changes to the configuration and operation of catering venues and other services should remain in step with the national guidance;
- **Noted** the continuation of existing restrictions on the operation of the Lords Estate for the period until the Easter recess;
- **Agreed** to defer a detailed consideration of the post-recess operation of the Lords Estate and associated guidance for members to the meeting on Friday 26 March, at which Public Health England officials would be present; and
- **Agreed** to issue a communication to Members explaining the decisions taken in the meeting.

6. Update on the Administration

Ed Ollard, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/19-21/113 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

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

7. Next meeting

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

Friday 26 February 2021

Patrick Milner
Secretary to the Commission
020 7219 6644
milnerp@parliament.uk