



LIAISON COMMITTEE DECISIONS DOCUMENT

Tuesday 28 January 2020

Present:

Bradley, L.
Hayter of Kentish Town, B.
Howe, E.
Judge, L.
Lang of Monkton, L.
Low of Dalston, L.
McFall of Alcluith, L. (Chair)
Tyler, L.
Walmsley, B.

Kinnoull, E (for item 3).

I. COMMITTEE OFFICE STANDARDS OF SERVICE

The Committee noted the Committee Office Standards of Service. Several members commended the “valuing others” training, and the hope was expressed that all Committee Chairs would undertake it.

2. COMMITTEE SCRUTINY OF EU-RELATED MATTERS AND TREATIES

The Committee *agreed*:

- That the EU Committee (with amended terms of reference) should continue in existence for the duration of the post-Brexit transition period (until 31 December 2020), with a further review towards the end of that period.
- That the EU Committee’s terms of reference should be revised to cover:
 1. scrutiny of EU documents, including fulfilment of the terms of clause 29 of the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill;
 2. scrutiny of the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and of negotiations on the future UK-EU relationship; and
 3. interparliamentary dialogue with the EU and its Member States.

The Committee noted that it was for the Procedure Committee to consider and agree the exact wording of the new terms of reference.

The Committee further *agreed*:

- to reduce the number of EU-facing sub-committees of the EU Committee from six to four during the transition period, with effect from the Easter recess;
- to the appointment of an additional Treaties Sub-Committee, to be a sub-committee of the EU Committee for the remainder of 2020, pending a further review.

3. SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE FOLLOW UP

The Committee discussed and *agreed* the criteria for special inquiry committee follow up.

4. APPLICATIONS FOR SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee discussed the procedure to be followed if Committee Chairs wished to make an application for a sub-committee in accordance with the recommendation of the Liaison Committee review. Any such sub-committee would be staffed by the usual team of three, and that the proposal was intended to be cost neutral, in that a sub-committee would not be set up unless another unit of committee activity was closed down.

The Committee wished to emphasise that there needed to be a clear necessity for such a sub-committee, that the relevant inquiry was urgently needed and could be completed within one parliamentary session or preferably less. These concerns should be reflected in the criteria for sub-committee applications and an associated template, which the Committee *agreed with amendments*.

5. CHAIRS FORUM

The Committee noted the creation of a Chairs' Forum, which was due to meet for the first time on 5 February.

6. PRE-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY

The Committee *took note* of the letter from the Leader of the House of Lords (**L/19-21/07**).

7. MEMORANDUM FROM POST

The Committee *took note* of the memorandum from POST (**L/19-21/08**). In discussion members expressed the hope that POST could align its work more closely with House of Lords committees and the work of the House more generally, noting POST's strength in horizon-scanning. There was general agreement that the three month duration of POST fellowships was too short to be of practical use to House of Lords committees, given the typically longer focus of their inquiries. It was suggested that the financial split between the two Houses might be revisited to reflect the proportion of work which POST carried out for each. The Chair announced his intention of inviting the POST Director to meet him to discuss the content of his note.

8. AD HOC COMMITTEE FOLLOW UP TO 2017-18 REPORTS

The Committee *agreed* four draft letters, which had been drafted in consultation with the relevant former Committee Chairs.

9. AD HOC COMMITTEE FOLLOW UP

The Committee *took note* of the letter on the Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003 (L/19-21/13)

February 2020