



HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION

Decisions

Tuesday 25 May 2021

Attendance

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

Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments, was in attendance. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

The Lord Speaker welcomed Lord Gardiner of Kimble, the Senior Deputy Speaker and Nora Senior, the new external member, to the meeting. He explained that Susannah Street had been appointed as the new Commission Secretary, and that James Whittle had been appointed as the External Management Review Implementation Lead, and that both would assume their duties shortly.

The Lord Speaker reminded Commission members that he had given notice of the decision to postpone consideration of the Steering Group for Change report (C/21-22/9) until a future meeting.

Finally, he said that there would be an additional, short meeting in the week commencing Monday 14 June, solely dedicated to Covid-19-related decisions which may need to be taken following any Prime Ministerial statement about step 4 of the Government's Covid-19 roadmap.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Commission agreed the record of discussion of the previous meeting on 26 March 2021. He also thanked Commission members for agreeing a paper by correspondence earlier in the week, *COVID-19 Measures on the House of Lords Estate: Interim Decisions* (C/21-22/1).

2. **COVID-19 Measures on the House of Lords Estate: Update**

Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments
C/21-22/2 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

International Travel

Jake Vaughan, Reading Clerk, Clerk of the Overseas Office and Director of Corporate Services

C/21-22/3 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Clerk of the Parliaments, Simon Burton, presented his paper and drew Commission members' attention to the figures showing weekly average Member attendance on the Estate and the use of the onsite rapid testing service and PCR tests.

The Commission **noted** the paper.

Jake Vaughan, Reading Clerk, Clerk of the Overseas Office and Director of Corporate Services, presented his paper. He explained that on 7 May, the Government had announced that, from 17 May, the rules prohibiting overseas travel save for specified purposes would be lifted. He invited the Commission to decide the rules and guidance for Parliamentary travel in the light of the new guidance.

The Commission **noted** the paper and **approved** the following travel policy:

Members and staff of the House may travel to green list countries for Parliamentary-related reasons, including official delegations, committees and inter-Parliamentary Groups where there is a clear business need for such travel. Such travel is voluntary, and there is no requirement to travel for either members or staff. The Administration will support Parliamentary travel to these countries, including making arrangements for any testing required prior to or after travel. This policy will be kept under review in the light of the changing guidance.

3. Restoration & Renewal

R&R: Financial Scrutiny

Lord Vaux of Harrowden, Chair of the Finance Committee

C/21-22/12 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

After discussion, the Commission **agreed** that the Finance Committee should review requests for funding within the Phase One Expenditure Limit, and that the Committee should provide advice to the Commission accordingly.

Quarterly Report: Q4 2020/21

Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the Sponsor Body, Cover note by Judith Brooke and Kate Meanwell, Lords R&R Directors

C/21-22/4 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

R&R Programme: Scheme Objectives and Phase I timeline

Paper by Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body, with Annexes A-C

C/21-22/5 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

R&R Programme Scheme Objectives and Phase I timeline: advice to the Commissions

Paper by Dr John Benger, Clerk of the House of Commons, and Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments

C/21-22/6 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body: Main Supply Estimate 2021-22

Report, Estimate and cover note by Judith Brooke and Kate Meanwell, House of Lords
R&R Directors

C/21-22/7 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

**Letter from Mr Speaker to Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R
Sponsor Body of 26 April 2021**

C/21-22/8 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **noted** the Quarterly Report.

On the R&R Programme Scheme Objectives and Phase I timeline, the Commission **noted** the advice provided by the Clerks of both Houses and **endorsed** the principles as set out in the Clerks' paper (C/21-22/6) as an appropriate framework for evaluating the scheme options, and **endorsed** the Programme's proposed Essential and Stretch Objectives for the R&R Programme as set out in the paper by Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body (C/21-22/5).

The Commission **noted** the main estimate 2021-22 for the Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body and its scrutiny by the Parliamentary Work Estimates Commission.

The Commission **noted** the letter from Mr Speaker to Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive of the R&R Sponsor Body, of 26 April 2021.

4. Update on the Administration

Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments

C/21-22/10 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **noted** the Update.

**5. Letter from the Lord Speaker, Lord Fowler, to Lord Mance, Chair of the
Conduct Committee, of 30 April 2021**

C/21-22/11 HIGHLY RESTRICTED

The Commission **noted** the letter.

6. Any Other Business and Next Meeting

The Lord Speaker informed Commission members that, as agreed, the next meeting would take place via Microsoft Teams at some point during the week commencing Monday 14 June.

Tuesday 25 May 2021

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

