

**LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING ON MONDAY 7 JUNE 2021 at 11am
DECISIONS DOCUMENT**

Present:

Bradley, L.
Campbell of Surbiton, B.
Davies of Oldham, L.
Gardiner of Kimble L. (Chair)
Hayter of Kentish Town, B.
Howe, E.
Judge, L.
Lang of Monkton, L.
McFall of Alcluith, L.
Smith of Hindhead, L.
Tyler, L.
Walmsley, B.

I. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

The Committee *considered* the Chair's draft report: Review of House of Lords investigative and scrutiny committee activity in 2020-2021 (L/21–22/01).

In discussion the Committee noted the welcome addition of the “From the Horseshoe” newsletter for members, and the fact that some reports were highlighted in emails to members from the Senior Deputy Speaker, but more needed to be done, including in ensuring that members of the House were aware of the highlights report to assist them in outreach. The Chair stated that this issue would be returned to in a future meeting.

The Committee *agreed* the report subject to a small number of amendments.

2. COMMITTEE OPERATING MODEL AND COMMITTEE ROOM AVAILABILITY AND FACILITIES

The Committee considered L/21–22/02: Note by the Clerk of Committees on the Committee operating model from September 2021, together with L/21–22/03: Results of the annual survey of committee members. The opportunities and difficulties associated with virtual, hybrid and in person meetings were discussed.

The Committee noted that discussions were proceeding in the Commission and that the operating model for the Grand Committee was also a matter for the Procedure and Privileges Committee, and *agreed* to return to this matter during their July meeting.

3. SPECIAL INQUIRY FOLLOW-UP

Having drawn attention to the criteria for considering requests by former committees to follow-up previous inquiries (L/21–22/05), the Chair recused himself from this item and from any decisions related to his previous ministerial responsibilities.¹

Lord Judge took the Chair

The Committee *took note* of the Government response to the Special Inquiry Select Committee on Rural Economy, Letter from Lord Gardiner of Kimble to the Clerk of Committees on the Select Committee on the Rural Economy.

The Committee *discussed* the bids for Special Inquiry follow-up work and *agreed*, when resources allowed, that the Special Inquiry on Citizenship and Civic Engagement (reported 2018 and Chaired by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots) should be the next priority for follow-up work.

In relation to the other proposals, the Committee discussed whether the reports on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and that on the Rural Economy could be combined for the follow-up process or whether that would be unwieldy, given the need to confine follow-up to a single Liaison Committee meeting. The Committee *agreed* that further deliberation on these two bids would be deferred until Lord Foster of Bath and other former members of the Rural Economy Committee had been able to consider the latest Government response to their recommendations.

Lord Gardiner of Kimble resumed the Chair.

The Committee discussed the follow-up inquiry process more widely, including resource constraints and the role of the Liaison Committee in the proceedings. The Committee *agreed* to review this work at a future meeting.

4. PRE-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY

The Committee *considered* and *agreed* the proposal from the Leader of the House for a joint pre-legislative scrutiny committee on the draft Online Harms Bill.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee *took note* of the Committee Office Standards of Service.

The Committee *took note* of the media coverage summary of the follow-up report on the Financial Exclusion Committee, compiled by the Press and Media Officer, whom they congratulated, together with the Committee Research Assistant who had led this inquiry.

6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee would meet next on 17 June, and would meet again on 12 July.

Lord Gardiner of Kimble
7 June 2021

¹ Earl Howe also recused himself from the discussion.