



House of Commons
Procedure Committee

**Written parliamentary
questions:
Departmental
performance in Session
2019–21**

First Report of Session 2021–22

*Report, together with formal minutes relating
to the report*

*Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed 14 July 2021*

Procedure Committee

The Procedure Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to consider the practice and procedure of the House in the conduct of public business, and to make recommendations.

Current membership

[Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP](#) (*Conservative, Staffordshire Moorlands*) (Chair)

[Aaron Bell MP](#) (*Conservative, Newcastle-under-Lyme*)

[Kirsty Blackman MP](#) (*Scottish National Party, Aberdeen North*)

[Jack Brereton MP](#) (*Conservative, Stoke-on-Trent South*)

[Bambos Charalambous MP](#) (*Labour, Enfield, Southgate*)

[Sir Christopher Chope MP](#) (*Conservative, Christchurch*)

[Dame Angela Eagle MP](#) (*Labour, Wallasey*)

[Chris Elmore MP](#) (*Labour, Ogmore*)

[James Gray MP](#) (*Conservative, North Wiltshire*)

[Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP](#) (*Labour, North Durham*)

[Nigel Mills MP](#) (*Conservative, Amber Valley*)

[Gary Sambrook MP](#) (*Conservative, Birmingham, Northfield*)

[James Sunderland MP](#) (*Conservative, Bracknell*)

[Owen Thompson MP](#) (*Scottish National Party, Midlothian*)

[Liz Twist MP](#) (*Labour, Blaydon*)

[Suzanne Webb MP](#) (*Conservative, Stourbridge*)

[Mr William Wragg MP](#) (*Conservative, Hazel Grove*)

Powers

The powers of the Committee are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No. 147. These are available on the internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Commons 2021. This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright-parliament.

Committee reports are published on the [Committee's website](#) and in print by Order of the House.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Paul Connolly (Media Relations Manager), Jim Lawford (Committee Operations Officer), Ffion Morgan (Second Clerk), Hannah Olbison (Senior Media Relations Officer) and Richard Ward (Clerk).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Procedure Committee, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 3351; the Committee's email address is proccom@parliament.uk.

You can follow the Committee on Twitter using [@CommonsProcCom](#)

Contents

Written parliamentary questions: Departmental performance in Session 2019–21	3
Annex 1: timeliness of answers by Department, Session 2019–21	8
Appendix 1: Correspondence	13
Letter from the Chair to the Leader of the House, dated 8 June 2021	13
Letter from the Leader of the House to the Chair, dated 16 June 2021	13
Formal minutes	15
Witnesses	16
List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament	17

Written parliamentary questions: Departmental performance in Session 2019–21

1. In this report we publish data on departmental answering performance in the 2019–21 Session of Parliament, accompanied by a table showing comparable data since the 2015–16 Session. We have continued the work of our predecessor committees in evaluating statistics on the timeliness with which written answers to parliamentary questions have been provided.¹ The Committee has also, through the Chair, offered a means by which Members are able to raise complaints about answers with which they are dissatisfied, or where a department has failed to provide an answer within the usual timeframes for a response.

2. In our last report, we noted that answering performance across Government had remained consistent with previous Sessions, continuing a trend of gradual improvement since the start of the 2010 Parliament. We also noted continuing growth in the average number of questions being tabled.

Table 1: Number of questions successfully tabled to all answering bodies per sitting day, Session 2010–12 to 2019–21

Session	Number of sitting days	WPQs tabled per sitting day	Change from previous Session
2010–12	295	333	-
2012–13	145	299	-10%
2013–14	162	250	-16%
2014–15	134	226	-10%
2015–16	158	237	+5%
2016–17	142	249	+5%
2017–19	349	282	+13%
2019	15	231	-18%
<i>2017–19 + 2019</i>	<i>364</i>	<i>279</i>	<i>+12%</i>
2019–21	209	331	+43% (+18%)

Source: 2010–12 to 2014–15: memorandum from the Leader of the House of Commons, November 2015; 2015–16 to 2021: Q&A system

3. The average number of questions for written answer declined each Session during the 2010 Parliament before rising in the 2015 and 2017 Parliaments. The short 2019 Session saw a decline in volume of 18%, equivalent to around 50 questions each day, but the circumstances of that Session were unusual and it makes more sense to treat the 2017 Parliament as a single reporting period for the purposes of longer term comparison. But even when the 2019 Session is grouped with the 2017–19 Session, the marked increase in the number of questions tabled in the 2019–21 Session is clear to see. An average of 331 questions were tabled each day in the Session, an increase of 18% against a baseline of 279

1 Procedure Committee, [Written Parliamentary questions: Departmental performance in the 2017 Parliament](#), Fifth Report of Session 2019–21, HC 790, para 1

questions tabled each day in the 2017–19 Parliament. This is a larger rise than the 13% increase seen at the start of the 2017 Parliament and takes questions back to levels last seen in the 2010–12 Session.

4. The increase in daily volume has been accompanied by a significant decline in the proportion of both ordinary and named day questions answered on time when all departments are taken into account. But looking at performance data across Government as a whole ignores the unusual and specific context of the 2019–21 Session. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had a dramatic effect on the number of questions tabled to the Department of Health and Social Care, which suffered a collapse in answering performance as it faced the twin challenges of dealing with the pandemic and facing significantly heightened Member interest in its work, as shown in the dramatic increase in number of questions tabled. If the Department of Health and Social Care is excluded from the results, cross-Government performance is otherwise on a par with recent performance.

Table 2: Overall rates of timeliness in written answers from Government departments, Session 2010–12 to 2019–21

Session	Ordinary written	Named day
2010–12	69%	69%
2012–13	76%	73%
2013–14	85%	78%
2014–15	87%	81%
2015–16	92%	86%
2016–17	92%	87%
2017–19	92%	89%
2019	91%	85%
2019–21	79%	74%
2019–21 (less DHSC)	90%	87%

Source: 2010–12 to 2014–15: memorandum from the Leader of the House of Commons, November 2015; 2015–16 to 2021: Q&A system

Table 3: Performance of Department of Health and Social Care in Session 2019–21

	Ordinary written			Named day		
	Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered substantively within 5 working days		Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered on named day	
19 December 2019–25 March 2020	1,160	930	80%	846	621	73%
20 April 2020–17 July 2020	1,825	301	16%	1,375	101	7%
20 July 2020–30 December 2020	2,694	549	20%	2,056	170	8%
6 January 2021–29 April 2021	2,171	1,051	48%	1,585	436	28%
19 December 2019–29 April 2021	7,850	2,831	36%	5,862	2,831	23%

Source: Q&A system

5. The impact of the pandemic on written questions in the 2019–21 Session was felt across Government and the House. Members justifiably took an interest in the Government’s response to the pandemic and associated issues in a wide range of Departments. During the 2019–21 Session, the Chamber saw twelve relevant points of order, three Speaker’s Statements,² and one Urgent Question relating to inadequacies of timeliness or content of responses to WPQs.³ The Chair wrote to the Secretary of State for Health on 19 May,⁴ and received a response on 28 May.⁵ When it became clear from our termly monitoring of statistics that the Department’s performance was not improving, the Chair wrote again to the Secretary of State in November,⁶ and received a reply from the Minister of State for Health later that month.⁷ The Minister provided a high-level summary of the Department’s plan to improve its performance,⁸ and gave oral evidence to the Committee accompanied by a senior official on 7 December 2020.⁹

6. The Minister undertook to provide regular written updates and did so on 22 February, 24 March, 13 April and 12 May.¹⁰ We considered the progress made by the Department since our December evidence session on 24 May and on 8 June the Chair wrote to the Minister to extend an invitation to give further oral evidence,¹¹ which is scheduled to take place on 19 July. As heightened parliamentary interest in the work of DHSC is likely to be sustained beyond the peak of the pandemic, we have urged the Department not to predicate its recovery of WPQ answering performance on decreasing volume of questions tabled.

7. The Chair also received complaints from Members dissatisfied with answers received or lack thereof. The issues raised with the Chair during the 2019–21 Session included:

- The relationship between the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and information sought via written parliamentary questions.
- Answers which stated that information was ‘not available in the format requested’, despite being published online in such a form.
- Questionable use of the disproportionate cost threshold as grounds not to provide an answer.
- Answers which stated that information was not available when further enquiries revealed context which would have been useful to the Member if provided as part of the initial answer.
- Answers which directed the Member to GOV.uk, rather than the specific location of the published information.

2 HC Deb 11 May 2020, [col 23](#); HC Deb 19 May 2020, [col 491](#); HC Deb 17 September 2020, [col 485](#)

3 HC Deb 19 November 2020, [cols 461–71](#)

4 [Correspondence from the Chair to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care dated 19 May 2020](#)

5 [Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to the Chair dated 28 May 2020](#)

6 [Correspondence from the Chair to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care dated 12 November 2020](#)

7 [Correspondence from the Minister of State for Health to the Chair dated 23 November 2020](#)

8 [Headline approach to parliamentary questions performance recovery](#), Department for Health and Social Care, 7 December 2020

9 [Oral evidence, Written Parliamentary questions: monitoring in Session 2019–21, 7 December 2020](#)

10 [22 February 2021](#); [24 March 2021](#); [13 April 2021](#); [12 May 2021](#)

11 [Correspondence from the Chair to the Minister of State for Health dated 8 June 2021](#)

8. These issues are far from new and indeed are ones which our predecessor committees have considered and on which recommendations have been made. The last substantive review of the use of written questions took place between 2007 and 2009 and led to the introduction of this Committee’s monitoring scheme and regular reports on this issue, of which this is the latest.¹²

9. Our predecessor Committee concluded that

We welcome the fact that the Cabinet Office and the Office of the Leader of the House produce central guidance for officials. However, the widespread dissatisfaction with the quality of answers, and the suggestion of inconsistency between certain departments, indicates that this guidance may often be disregarded or may not have been properly disseminated from these central offices. The Government must take steps to review its guidance structures and instigate a thorough review process across government to ensure that the principles set out in the guidance are adhered to in practice. We urge the Government to publish prominently on a publicly accessible website its full range of guidance to officials for answering written parliamentary questions, and to ensure that this is kept up to date.¹³

The Government’s Guide to Parliamentary Work was last revised in September 2018 and section 8 on Written Questions is very high level, focusing on the rules as they apply to tabling and certain matters of process.¹⁴

10. On 28 June, we questioned the Leader of the House on WPQs. He gave his support to Members in holding the Government to account when he said “MPs have an absolute right to receive replies to questions. It is a fundamental part of scrutiny and it is an expectation of Ministers that they will respond efficiently”,¹⁵ and linked answering performance to the level of interest in parliamentary work shown by the Secretary of State. The Leader suggested that one way to improve monitoring of WPQ answering performance by departments would be to increase the frequency with which answering data is produced:

We ought to be looking at real-time information and chasing Departments sooner, rather than relying on business questions or people just catching one of us in the Division Lobby and saying, “This Department isn’t answering well.” We have the ability to get that data and we ought to use it, because then we would stop the problem ever developing to the point where you are just not getting answers and getting a huge backlog. Then we deal with the backlog, which means your new questions are not answered and it is very hard to break that cycle once you get into it.¹⁶

11. We agree with the Leader of the House that there would be merit in a system of real-time reporting of answering performance derived from data held within the digital systems relating to written PQs.

12 Procedure Committee, [Written Parliamentary Questions](#), Third Report of Session 2008–09, HC 859

13 Procedure Committee, [Written Parliamentary Questions](#), Third Report of Session 2008–09, HC 859, para 66

14 Cabinet Office, [Guide to Parliamentary Work](#), Section 8 ‘Written Questions’ [accessed 29 June 2021]

15 Oral evidence, [28 June 2021](#), Q515

16 Oral evidence, [28 June 2021](#), Q519

12. We will consider whether improved guidance to Departments could improve the quality of answers and consistency in answering practice and make recommendations later this year to the Leader of the House on revisions to the Guide to Parliamentary Work.

Annex 1: timeliness of answers by Department, Session 2019–21

Table 1: Departments listed alphabetically

	Ordinary written			Named day		
	Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered substantively within 5 working days		Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered on named day	
Attorney General	93	76	82%	78	77	99%
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	2,761	2,609	94%	1,928	1,838	95%
Cabinet Office	1,078	848	79%	1,095	742	68%
COP26	25	5	20%	16	6	38%
Defence	1,154	1,142	99%	999	984	98%
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	2,010	1,624	81%	1,322	1,069	81%
Education	2,986	2,490	83%	2,441	1,862	76%
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2,405	2,203	92%	1,130	1,083	96%
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	2,764	2,409	87%	2,204	1,851	84%
Government Equalities Office	153	107	70%	147	88	60%
Health and Social Care	7,850	2,831	36%	5,862	1,328	23%
Home Office	2,808	2,174	77%	2,338	1,591	68%
Housing, Communities and Local Government	2,153	2,024	94%	1,808	1,719	95%
International Trade	1,094	1,013	93%	590	490	83%
Justice	1,627	1,531	94%	1,135	1,054	93%
Leader of the House of Commons	13	13	100%	33	33	100%
Northern Ireland Office	174	162	93%	191	168	88%
Prime Minister	36	35	97%	46	46	100%
Scotland Office	115	114	99%	77	77	100%
Transport	2,655	2,650	100%	1,818	1,798	99%
Treasury	3,238	3,220	99%	2,657	2,622	99%
Wales Office	106	106	100%	83	82	99%
Work and Pensions	1,879	1,638	87%	1,947	1,640	84%

Source: data from the Q&A system provided by the House of Commons Table Office

Table 2: Departments ranked by number of questions for ordinary written answer received

	Ordinary written			Named day		
	Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered substantively within 5 working days		Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered on named day	
Health and Social Care	7,850	2,831	36%	5,862	1,328	23%
Treasury	3,238	3,220	99%	2,657	2,622	99%
Education	2,986	2,490	83%	2,441	1,862	76%
Home Office	2,808	2,174	77%	2,338	1,591	68%
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	2,764	2,409	87%	2,204	1,851	84%
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	2,761	2,609	94%	1,928	1,838	95%
Transport	2,655	2,650	100%	1,818	1,798	99%
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2,405	2,203	92%	1,130	1,083	96%
Housing, Communities and Local Government	2,153	2,024	94%	1,808	1,719	95%
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	2,010	1,624	81%	1,322	1,069	81%
Work and Pensions	1,879	1,638	87%	1,947	1,640	84%
Justice	1,627	1,531	94%	1,135	1,054	93%
Defence	1,154	1,142	99%	999	984	98%
International Trade	1,094	1,013	93%	590	490	83%
Cabinet Office	1,078	848	79%	1,095	742	68%
Northern Ireland Office	174	162	93%	191	168	88%
Government Equalities Office	153	107	70%	147	88	60%
Scotland Office	115	114	99%	77	77	100%
Wales Office	106	106	100%	83	82	99%
Attorney General	93	76	82%	78	77	99%
Prime Minister	36	35	97%	46	46	100%
COP26	25	5	20%	16	6	38%
Leader of the House of Commons	13	13	100%	33	33	100%

Source: data from the Q&A system provided by the House of Commons Table Office

Table 3: Departments ranked by proportion of questions for ordinary written answer receiving substantive response within five working days

	Ordinary written			Named day		
	Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered substantively within 5 working days		Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered on named day	
Wales Office	106	106	100%	83	82	99%
Leader of the House of Commons	13	13	100%	33	33	100%
Transport	2,655	2,650	100%	1,818	1,798	99%
Treasury	3,238	3,220	99%	2,657	2,622	99%
Scotland Office	115	114	99%	77	77	100%
Defence	1,154	1,142	99%	999	984	98%
Prime Minister	36	35	97%	46	46	100%
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	2,761	2,609	94%	1,928	1,838	95%
Justice	1,627	1,531	94%	1,135	1,054	93%
Housing, Communities and Local Government	2,153	2,024	94%	1,808	1,719	95%
Northern Ireland Office	174	162	93%	191	168	88%
International Trade	1,094	1,013	93%	590	490	83%
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2,405	2,203	92%	1,130	1,083	96%
Work and Pensions	1,879	1,638	87%	1,947	1,640	84%
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	2,764	2,409	87%	2,204	1,851	84%
Education	2,986	2,490	83%	2,441	1,862	76%
Attorney General	93	76	82%	78	77	99%
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	2,010	1,624	81%	1,322	1,069	81%
Cabinet Office	1,078	848	79%	1,095	742	68%
Home Office	2,808	2,174	77%	2,338	1,591	68%
Government Equalities Office	153	107	70%	147	88	60%
Health and Social Care	7,850	2,831	36%	5,862	1,328	23%
COP26	25	5	20%	16	6	38%

Source: data from the Q&A system provided by the House of Commons Table Office

Table 4: Departments ranked by number of questions for written answer on a named day received

	Ordinary written			Named day		
	Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered substantively within 5 working days		Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered on named day	
Health and Social Care	7,850	2,831	36%	5,862	1,328	23%
Treasury	3,238	3,220	99%	2,657	2,622	99%
Education	2,986	2,490	83%	2,441	1,862	76%
Home Office	2,808	2,174	77%	2,338	1,591	68%
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	2,764	2,409	87%	2,204	1,851	84%
Work and Pensions	1,879	1,638	87%	1,947	1,640	84%
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	2,761	2,609	94%	1,928	1,838	95%
Transport	2,655	2,650	100%	1,818	1,798	99%
Housing, Communities and Local Government	2,153	2,024	94%	1,808	1,719	95%
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	2,010	1,624	81%	1,322	1,069	81%
Justice	1,627	1,531	94%	1,135	1,054	93%
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2,405	2,203	92%	1,130	1,083	96%
Cabinet Office	1,078	848	79%	1,095	742	68%
Defence	1,154	1,142	99%	999	984	98%
International Trade	1,094	1,013	93%	590	490	83%
Northern Ireland Office	174	162	93%	191	168	88%
Government Equalities Office	153	107	70%	147	88	60%
Wales Office	106	106	100%	83	82	99%
Attorney General	93	76	82%	78	77	99%
Scotland Office	115	114	99%	77	77	100%
Prime Minister	36	35	97%	46	46	100%
Leader of the House of Commons	13	13	100%	33	33	100%
COP26	25	5	20%	16	6	38%

Source: data from the Q&A system provided by the House of Commons Table Office

Table 5: Departments ranked by proportion of questions for written answer on a named day answered on the day named

	Ordinary written			Named day		
	Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered substantively within 5 working days		Questions tabled for answer	Number (%) answered on named day	
Scotland Office	115	114	99%	77	77	100%
Prime Minister	36	35	97%	46	46	100%
Leader of the House of Commons	13	13	100%	33	33	100%
Transport	2,655	2,650	100%	1,818	1,798	99%
Wales Office	106	106	100%	83	82	99%
Attorney General	93	76	82%	78	77	99%
Treasury	3,238	3,220	99%	2,657	2,622	99%
Defence	1,154	1,142	99%	999	984	98%
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2,405	2,203	92%	1,130	1,083	96%
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	2,761	2,609	94%	1,928	1,838	95%
Housing, Communities and Local Government	2,153	2,024	94%	1,808	1,719	95%
Justice	1,627	1,531	94%	1,135	1,054	93%
Northern Ireland Office	174	162	93%	191	168	88%
Work and Pensions	1,879	1,638	87%	1,947	1,640	84%
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office	2,764	2,409	87%	2,204	1,851	84%
International Trade	1,094	1,013	93%	590	490	83%
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	2,010	1,624	81%	1,322	1,069	81%
Education	2,986	2,490	83%	2,441	1,862	76%
Home Office	2,808	2,174	77%	2,338	1,591	68%
Cabinet Office	1,078	848	79%	1,095	742	68%
Government Equalities Office	153	107	70%	147	88	60%
COP26	25	5	20%	16	6	38%
Health and Social Care	7,850	2,831	36%	5,862	1,328	23%

Source: data from the Q&A system provided by the House of Commons Table Office

Appendix 1: Correspondence

Letter from the Chair to the Leader of the House, dated 8 June 2021

You will recall that in October 2010, the Committee commenced its monitoring role in respect of the answers received to written parliamentary questions. Since then, the Committee has published figures on a roughly Sessional basis. Ten years on, we are now considering the overall health of the system and our role in the process.

We noted in our first report that where a complaint was followed up, a better answer was provided, or at least an explanation of why one could not be given. This is both good and bad news so far as the Member is concerned: on the one hand they come away with more than they had before, but are doubtless left wondering why they had to ask twice.

In the previous Session, we had twelve points of order, three Speaker's Statements and one Urgent Question relating to inadequacies of timeliness or content of responses to WPQs. Mr Speaker and his Deputies have been clear and consistent in their support for Members on this matter.

Having reviewed figures for the last Session, we have concluded that a comparatively high volume of WPQs tabled is no justification for poor performance. Of the seven departments receiving an average of more than 20 WPQs per day, three exceed the target of 85% on-time answering, while another meets it. The three remaining are some way off the pace, with the DHSC being an outlier in terms of both high volume and poor performance. Both the Home Office and Department for Education have struggled with PQ performance in the past and it is troubling that their performance is once again cause for concern, especially since both have in the past been through programmes of performance improvement.

While the Minister for Health appeared before us in December to account for DHSC's performance and subsequently provided written updates on the Department's performance, this is still well below anything approaching an acceptable level, even for a Department which has been operating under significant pressure for more than a year. We expect the Department's performance to reach an acceptable level of performance by the end of the Session.

I am copying this letter to Mr Speaker and will also publish it on the Committee's website. We intend subsequently to follow up with Ministers designated as having responsibility for WPQs across Government and, with your office, with the heads of parliamentary branches. I hope that the Committee will publish a short report and the latest data on WPQ monitoring before the House rises for the summer recess. We look forward to your next appearance on Monday 28 June and hope to discuss this further then.

Letter from the Leader of the House to the Chair, dated 16 June 2021

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding parliamentary questions.

During the height of the pandemic, departments were under significant pressure when replying to parliamentary questions and I had some sympathy with departments. Nevertheless, it is a recognised fundamental right of Parliament that members receive full and timely responses to parliamentary questions.

I last wrote to all members of the Cabinet on this matter in April, including the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary. Throughout the pandemic I have received a significant number of complaints from members about the timeliness and quality of responses to parliamentary questions and I continue to raise members' questions with departments where there is a significant delay or unsatisfactory response.

My office will raise your letter with departments alongside the Committee's upcoming report. As ever, if my office can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to get in touch and I look forward to our upcoming meeting.

Formal minutes

Wednesday 14 July 2021

Members present:

Karen Bradley, in the Chair

Aaron Bell	Nigel Mills
Jack Brereton	Suzanne Webb

Draft Report (*Written parliamentary questions: Departmental performance in Session 2019–21*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 12 read and agreed to.

Annex agreed to.

A Paper was appended to the Report as Appendix 1.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available (Standing Order No. 134).

[Adjourned till Monday 19 July at 4.00 pm.]

Witnesses

The following witnesses gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the [inquiry publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

Monday 7 December 2020

Edward Argar MP, Minister, Department for Health and Social Care; **Hugh Harris**, Director of Ministers, Accountability and Strategy, Department for Health and Social Care

[Q1–19](#)

List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the publications page of the Committee's website.

Session 2019–21

Number	Title	Reference
1st Report	Procedure under coronavirus restrictions: proposals for remote participation - First Report of Session 2019–21	HC 300
2nd Report	Procedure under coronavirus restrictions: remote voting in divisions	HC 335
3rd Report	Procedure under coronavirus restrictions: the Government's proposal to discontinue remote participation	HC 392
4th Report	Proxy voting: review of pilot arrangements	HC 10
5th Report	Written Parliamentary questions: Departmental performance in the 2017 Parliament	HC 790
6th Report	Procedure under coronavirus restrictions: virtual participation in debate	HC 905
7th Report	Procedure under coronavirus restrictions: call lists and time limits on speeches in debates	HC 1031
8th Report	Back to the future? Procedure after coronavirus restrictions	HC 1282
1st Special Report	Procedure under coronavirus restrictions: the Government's proposal for proxy voting for shielding Members	HC 429
2nd Special Report	Procedure under coronavirus restrictions: Government Responses to the Committee's First, Second and Third Reports	HC 565
3rd Special Report	Proxy voting: review of pilot arrangements: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2019–21	HC 836
4th Special Report	Procedure under coronavirus restrictions: Government Responses to the Committee's Sixth and Seventh Reports	HC 1165
5th Special Report	Back to the future? Procedure after coronavirus restrictions: Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report	HC 1389