

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

**Monday 21 June 2021 at 10.00 am
Meeting in the Speaker's Study
and via Microsoft Teams**

Present:

The Speaker, in the Chair

Nick Brown

Thangam Debbonaire

Jacob Rees-Mogg

Sir Charles Walker

Pete Wishart

Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House)

Dr Rima Makarem (External member)

Louise Wilson (External member)

DECISIONS

COMMISSION

1. NEW MEMBERS – DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Nick Brown confirmed there were no additional interests he wished to declare to those included in the Register of Members' Financial Interests.

Louise Wilson noted that she was a Non-Executive Director of the Northern Ireland Office, Trustee of the National Emergencies Trust, a Governor at St Mary's School, Ascot and Trustee of the Campaign Board of Historic Royal Palaces.

2. REPORTS AND UPDATES

- a) TUS and Members' staff representatives update
- b) Written updates from the Administration, Finance and Audit Committees
- c) House Service update

The Commission took note of the updates.

3. COVID-19 UPDATE

The Commission:

- a. **Agreed that General Committees and Westminster Hall debates will now operate on the basis of 1m+ social distancing, in line with the current rules in the Commons Chamber.**
- b. **Supported the resumption of commercial tours from August 2021, and democratic and education tours from September 2021, subject to agreement by the House of Lords.**
- c. **Agreed that inward delegations with FCDO sponsorship should be considered on a case-by-case basis by Mr Speaker on advice from the Covid Group.**

d. Agreed the continuation of existing measures on the estate due to the continuation of step 3 of the roadmap at this time. These are:

- **Face coverings should continue to be worn by all groups whilst moving around the estate.**
- **All passholders should continue following the guidance on international travel, with publicly funded travel only available for visits to countries on the current green list.**
- **No change to the current arrangements on access to the estate and restrictions on the numbers of staff.**
- **2m social distancing to continue to be the standard approach used on the estate and guidance on meetings to remain the same, that these should be held virtually where possible. Where meetings do take place they must be held in accordance with the room capacity limits and for passholders only.**
- **Current levels of service provision to remain in place until restrictions are eased subject to levels of demand.**

4. INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL: 6-MONTH UPDATE

The Commission received an update on the work of the Panel in its first six months, and took note of the paper.

COMMISSION/MEC

5. PAPERS TO NOTE

The Commission took note of the following papers:

- **Letter from the Sponsor Body**
- **Forward Programme**
- **Deliberations from 17 May 2021**

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission/MEC will take place on Monday 12 July at 10.00 am in the Speaker's Study and via Microsoft Teams.