

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

**Monday 12 July 2021 at 9.45 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. TUS and Members' staff representatives update

The Commission took note of the update.

2. Restoration and Renewal Programme: Palace of Westminster Design Assumptions

The Commission endorsed the design assumptions for the Restoration and Renewal Programme.

3. Financial Planning and Financial Remit for 2022–23 onwards

The Commission agreed:

- (a) **The focus of the next Medium Term Financial Plan should be on 2022–23 with indicative figures provided for the subsequent three years;**
- (b) **For the financial remit, the starting position would be to roll forward cash budgets on the basis of no overall real terms increase across the resource element of the Administration Estimate. This would mean areas of growth would need to be offset by savings and efficiencies, unless specifically agreed by the Commission; and**
- (c) **The capital element of the Administration Estimate would factor in the investment plans agreed with the Commission in February 2021 for the Commons Estate Portfolio (formerly Northern Estate Programme) and the latest assessment of investment needs for the estate ahead of Restoration and Renewal.**

The Commission also discussed areas of activity in relation to driving value for money and delivering savings and efficiencies in 2022–23.

4. Application of the Recall of MPs Act 2015 following determinations by the Independent Expert Panel: options

The Commission agreed that the Leader of the House would be asked to bring forward proposed changes to Standing Orders for consideration by the House to apply the Recall of MPs Act 2015 to suspensions following determinations by the Independent Expert Panel.

5. ICGS Governance Changes

The Commission:

- **Endorsed the membership and terms of reference of the proposed:**
 - **ICGS Stakeholder Group**
 - **ICGS Enhanced Stakeholder Group**
 - **ICGS Change Control Group**
- **Endorsed in principle the establishment of a bicameral strategic overview group in 18 months' time;**
- **Noted that the proposed governance changes would be brought to the House for approval; and**
- **Agreed to set up a staff working group that will consider cluster reporting, which will report to the Commission on its conclusions in the autumn.**

6. Reports and updates

a. Covid update

The Commission:

- **Approved the resumption of publicly funded travel from September for Members and staff to countries on the amber list where it is considered safe for the trip to occur.**
- **Confirmed the previous approvals given for the response to Step 4 and noted the outcome of the House risk assessment.**

Further information about the implementation of step 4 can be found [here](#).

b. Written updates from the Administration, Finance and Audit Committees

The Commission took note of the updates.

c. House Service update

The Commission took note of the update.

COMMISSION/MEC

7. Papers to note

The Commission took note of the following papers:

- **Cultural transformation update**
- **Forward Look**

➤ Deliberations from the meeting on 21 June 2021

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Commission/MEC will take place on Monday 13 September at 10.00 am in the Speaker's Study.