



**LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING ON MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021 at 3.30pm
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.
Smith of Hindhead, L.
Tyler, L.
Walmsley, B.

1. MINUTES

The Committee *agreed* the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the 2021-2022 parliamentary session.

2. COMMITTEE OFFICE RESOURCES

The Committee considered the note by the Chair on Committee Office resources (L/21–22/24), which listed the requests which had been received for additional committee or sub-committee activity. It was noted that whilst turning down requests would be unpopular, this was preferable to the Liaison Committee agreeing to them and it then transpiring that they could not be staffed. The Committee *agreed* that the quality of committee work should be prioritised over the quantity of committees.

3. COMMON FRAMEWORKS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee took note of the letter (L/21-22/25) from Baroness Andrews, Chair of the Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee, requesting a further extension in the light of the delays in common frameworks being produced. The Committee noted the importance of the work of that Committee and *agreed* to extend the work of the Common Frameworks Committee until the end of July 2022, with the proviso that if it proved possible to complete its work at an earlier date it should do so.

4. SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE PROPOSALS

The Committee considered 17 proposals for new special inquiry inquiries in 2022 which had been proposed by members of the House. The Committee *agreed* to shortlist the following proposals:

- Fraud, Lord Vaux of Harrowden and Lord Stevenson of Balmacara and Online Fraud, Lord

Young of Cookham

- Pressures on land use and the decision-making framework for competing priorities for Land, Baroness Young of Old Scone
- Residential Care Services for adults, Lord Laming
- The economic and social costs of achieving net zero by 2050, Lord Hutton

In relation to the two proposals relating to fraud, the Committee considered that although combining proposals into one inquiry was often undesirable, these two proposals appeared to sit neatly together. It was noted that they could also be combined with post-legislative scrutiny of the Fraud Act 2006.

The Committee also noted that the proposal relating to net zero fell within the remit of the Environment and Climate Change Committee. The Committee *agreed* that as the House now had a comprehensive committee structure, it would be undesirable for a special inquiry committee to be set up on a topic which might be the subject of an inquiry by an existing sessional committee. In this case the view of the Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee should be sought before any scoping work on Lord Hutton's special inquiry proposal was undertaken.¹

5. PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CLAIMS OF GENOCIDE

The Committee considered the note on designating a House of Lords committee as the “responsible committee” to consider reports of genocide in the territory of a prospective Free Trade Agreement counter-party and to report accordingly, having taken “such evidence as it considers appropriate” (L/21-22/28).

The Committee *agreed* that in the event of an inquiry into allegations of genocide pursuant to section 3 of the Trade Act 2021, this would need to be resourced as a matter of priority in order to fulfil the statutory requirement.

The Committee also discussed procedure surrounding the designated committee and its power to request a debate, in particular how best to involve the International Agreements Committee, which might in practice have early knowledge of any relevant draft Free Trade Agreement. The Committee *noted* that a memorandum of understanding between the International Agreements Committee and the International Relations and Defence Committee might be an appropriate way of ensuring effective communication regarding this matter.

The Committee *agreed in principle* that the International Relations and Defence Committee be designated as the “responsible committee” for the purposes of section 3 of the Trade Act 2021, and be given the power to appoint a sub-committee explicitly for the purposes of an inquiry under section 3. The Committee *agreed* to agree the necessary draft report to the House incorporating its recommendation by correspondence.

6. ANNUAL REQUEST BY COMMITTEE CHAIRS TO APPONT A SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee *took note* of the letter from Lord Hollick, Chair of the Industry and Regulators Committee (L/21-22/29). The Committee *agreed* to consider this proposal, alongside other expected bids at its meeting in November.

The Committee discussed resourcing in relation to sub-committees, and noted that the appointment of any additional sub-committees was likely to impact on the number of new special

¹ The Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee confirmed after the meeting that the proposal fell within the remit of that Committee.

inquiry committees.

7. EASY READ VERSION OF REPORT

The Committee noted with approval the easy read version of the Liaison Committee's second report of the session, "The Equality Act 2010: the impact on disabled people, Follow-up report.'

Lord Gardiner of Kimble

11 October 2021