



Liaison Committee sub-Committee on Chairs' staff attendance at private meetings

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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Website: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/103/liaison-committee-commons>

From Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair

Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Chair
Procedure Committee
House of Commons

By email

23 November 2021

Dear Karen,

Re: Attendance of Chairs' staff at private meetings of Select Committees

In September the Liaison Committee agreed to establish a sub-Committee to review a proposal made by the previous Liaison Committee in the last Parliament, relating to the attendance of Chairs' personal staff at private meetings of Select Committees.

The Liaison Committee's [First Report of Session 2017-19](#) made two recommendations – that Members be permitted to “guest” at meetings of other Committees and take part in proceedings (other than voting); and that pilot arrangements be put in place to allow a single, nominated Member of Chairs' staff to attend private meetings of Committees..

The two proposals in the report were put to the House together but were initially objected to. Subsequently the “guesting” provisions were re-tabled and adopted, but it became apparent that there was opposition to the proposals relating to Chairs staff, and the matter was dropped.

The sub-Committee has been tasked with examining whether these proposals should be revived and is keen to seek the views of the current Procedure Committee. The Procedure Committee in the last Parliament expressed some reservations about the proposal and suggested that any pilot should be closely circumscribed, for example being subject to unanimous consent from the Committee.

I would be very grateful for the views of the current Committee on this matter.

Yours ever

Bernard



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Chair of the sub-Committee