

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 12 JANUARY 2022
HYBRID MEETING IN THE SPEAKER'S STUDY AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Mr Speaker, in the Chair	
Kemi Badenoch	Karl McCartney
Clive Betts	Cat Smith (virtual)
Craig Mackinlay	Owen Thompson
Christian Matheson	

(Private)

1. Introductions and declarations of interests

Mr Speaker welcomed Clive Betts to his first meeting of the Speaker's Committee. Clive Betts declared that he is a Local Government Association Vice-President.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 23 November 2021.

3. Update on Electoral Commissioner recruitments

The Committee was updated on the ongoing recruitment of the two nominated Commissioners for the Labour and SNP parties replacing Joan Walley and Alasdair Morgan, and the re-appointment of Lord Gilbert for the Conservative Party.

4. Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Supplementary Estimate

Jolyon Jackson CBE, Chief Executive, and Lynn Ingram, Director of Corporate Services, Local Government Boundary Commission for England gave oral evidence on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Supplementary Estimate for 2021-22.

5. Electoral Commission: Supplementary Estimate

John Pullinger, Chair, Bob Posner, Chief Executive, and Kieran Rix, Director of Finance, Electoral Commission gave oral evidence on the Electoral Commission's Supplementary Estimate for 2021-22.

6. Approval of Supplementary Estimates

The Committee agreed to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Supplementary Estimate for 2021-22, subject to the advice provided by the Treasury. The Committee agreed to the Electoral Commission's Supplementary Estimate for 2021-22, subject to the advice provided by the Treasury.

7. Any other business

There was no other business

[The Committee adjourned]

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 9 MARCH 2022
COMMITTEE ROOM 8

Mr Speaker, in the Chair	
Kemi Badenoch	Karl McCartney
Clive Betts	Cat Smith
Christian Matheson	Owen Thompson

In private

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2022.

2. **Designation of Electoral Commission Accounting Officer**

The Committee agreed to approve the designation of Shaun McNally as Accounting Officer of the Electoral Commission, following his appointment as Chief Executive.

3. **Consideration of C&AG's economy, efficiency and effectiveness report**

The Committee considered the Comptroller and Auditor General's economy, efficiency and effectiveness report on the subject of voter engagement.

4. **Consideration of Scottish Parliament comments on the Electoral Commission's Five-Year Plan**

The Committee considered comments from the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body on the Electoral Commission's Five-Year Plan 2022/23 to 2026/27.

5. **Consideration of HM Treasury comments on the Main Estimate**

The Committee considered HM Treasury comments on the Main Estimates for 2022-23 for the Electoral Commission and Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

In public

6. **Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Main Estimate**

Professor Colin Mellors OBE, Jolyon Jackson CBE, Chief Executive, and Lynn Ingram, Director of Corporate Services, Local Government Boundary Commission for England gave oral evidence on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Main Estimate for 2022-23.

7. **Electoral Commission: Main Estimate**

John Pullinger, Chair, Bob Posner, Chief Executive, and Kieran Rix, Director of Finance, Electoral Commission gave oral evidence on the Electoral Commission's Main Estimate for 2022-23, and Five-Year Plan 2022/23 to 2026/27.

In private

8. **Consideration of Main Estimates**

The Committee agreed to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Main Estimate for 2022-23, and agreed to lay it before the House.

The Committee agreed to the Electoral Commission's Main Estimate for 2022-23, and agreed to lay it before the House.

9. **Any other business**

There was no other business

[The Committee adjourned

SCEC FM 03 (2022)

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 27 APRIL 2022

MR SPEAKER'S STUDY

Mr Speaker, in the Chair	
Clive Betts	Cat Smith

Craig Mackinlay	Owen Thompson
Christian Matheson	

In private

1. Minutes of last meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 9 March 2022.

2. Publication of correspondence

The Committee agreed to publish the following correspondence:

- Letter from Colin Mellors to the Speaker, regarding follow-up from the March evidence session, dated 30.03.22
- Letter from Bob Posner to the Speaker, regarding follow-up from the March evidence session, dated 31.03.22

3. Consideration of annual report

The Committee agreed its first report for 2022, *The Work of the Committee in 2021-22*.

4. Appointment of Electoral Commissioners nominated by the Labour Party, Scottish National Party and Conservative Party

The Committee considered the report of the recruitment panel appointed to assess candidates nominated by the Labour and Scottish National Party to replace Joan Walley and Alasdair Morgan, respectively.

The Committee agreed to appoint Roseanna Cunningham and Chris Ruane as Electoral Commissioners, and agreed to put their names forward for statutory consultation with party leaders.

The Committee was updated on progress on the re-appointment of Lord Gilbert of Panteg as the Electoral Commissioner nominated by the Conservative Party.

5. Strategy and Policy Statement: Briefing

The Committee was brief on the Strategy and Policy Statement provisions of the Elections Bill, by Daniel Greenberg, Speaker's Counsel for Domestic Legislation, and the Secretary to the Committee.

6. Strategy and Policy Statement: Consideration of approach

The Committee agreed its approach to exercising its anticipated statutory powers regarding the Strategy and Policy Statement and oversight of the Electoral Commission.

7. Any other business

There was no other business

[The Committee adjourned

SCEC FM 04 (2022)

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

9 JUNE 2022

The Committee agreed via email its Second Report 2022, *Appointment of Nominated Electoral Commissioners*, HC 352.

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 27 OCTOBER 2022

MR SPEAKER'S STUDY

Mr Speaker, in the Chair	
Clive Betts	Owen Thompson
Andrew Stephenson	William Wragg

In private

1. Introductions and declarations of interest

Andrew Stephenson was introduced as a new member of the Committee, having been appointed by the former Prime Minister to exercise concurrently the functions of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the Committee. Andrew Stephenson did not declare any interests which are not already included in the Register of Members' Financial Interests.

William Wragg was introduced as a new member of the Committee, appointed by the Speaker. William Wragg did not declare any interests which are not already included in the Register of Members' Financial Interests.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 27 April 2022.

3. Appointment of Committee spokesperson

The Committee noted Cat Smith's appointment as spokesperson for the Committee, replacing Chris Matheson.

4. Consideration of draft Strategy and Policy Statement

The Committee was briefed on the draft Strategy and Policy Statement for the Electoral Commission by Daniel Greenberg, Speaker's Counsel for Domestic Legislation.

The Committee considered the draft Statement, and agreed to reconvene to further consider the draft Statement once the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee has published its response to the consultation on the draft Statement.

5. Any other business

There was no other business

[The Committee adjourned]

SCEC FM 05 (2022)

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 2 NOVEMBER 2022

MR SPEAKER'S STUDY

Mr Speaker, in the Chair	
Clive Betts	Cat Smith
Rachel Hopkins	Owen Thompson
Craig Mackinlay	

In private

1. Introductions and declarations of interest

Rachel Hopkins was introduced as a new member of the Committee, appointed by the Speaker. In addition to those included in the Register of Members' Financial Interests, Rachel Hopkins declared that she worked for the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, over 20 years ago.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 27 October 2022.

3. Publication of correspondence

The Committee agreed to publish the following correspondence:

- Letter from Shaun McNally regarding implementation of the Elections Act update (dated 21.10.22)

- Letter from Shaun McNally regarding an update on the Political Finance Online Project (dated 24.10.22)

4. Appointment of Electoral Commissioners

The Committee agreed to re-appoint Dame Sue Bruce as the Electoral Commissioner with responsibility in relation to Scotland, for a further three-year term, commencing on 1 January 2024 and ending on 31 December 2026.

The Committee agreed to commence the process to replace Rob Vincent as the Electoral Commissioner with responsibility in relation to Local Government, when his current term expires on 31 December 2023. The Committee agreed to appoint a panel to conduct the recruitment and to provide to the Speaker and the Committee with a ranked list of appointable candidates. The Committee agreed that Philippa Helme should chair the panel, and that John Pullinger, Chair, Electoral Commission, and William Wragg and Cat Smith, Members, Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, should be members of the panel.

The Committee also agreed that the Speaker will write to the leaders of the qualifying parties in relation to the approaching end of term of Alexander Attwood as the Electoral Commissioner nominated by the smaller parties, to ask them to unanimously put Alexander Attwood forward for re-appointment, or to put forward the names of candidates for consideration. The Committee agreed that, if the leaders of the qualifying parties nominate candidates to replace Alexander Attwood, the panel referenced above should conduct the assessment of the candidates.

5. Briefing and discussion of lines of questioning

The Committee was briefed by Louise McNair (Scrutiny Unit), and then discussed lines of questioning for the private evidence taking with Electoral Commission witnesses.

6. Electoral Commission: Autumn update

The Committee took evidence in private from John Pullinger, Chair, Sean McNally, Chief Executive, and Louise Edwards, Director of Regulation, Electoral Commission.

7. Any other business

There was no other business

[The Committee adjourned]

SCEC FM 06 (2022)

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 20 DECEMBER 2022

MR SPEAKER'S STUDY

Mr Speaker, in the Chair	
Clive Betts	Cat Smith
Rachel Hopkins	Owen Thompson

In private

1. Minutes of last meeting

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of 2 November 2022.

2. Strategy and Policy Statement consultation

The Committee considered the draft Strategy and Policy Statement on the Electoral Commission. The Committee agreed its response to the consultation.

The Committee agreed to publish its response as its Third Report 2022, *Response to the Government's consultation on the draft Strategy and Policy Statement for the Electoral Commission* (HC 967).

3. Any other business

There was no other business.

[The Committee adjourned