

HOUSE OF LORDS COMMISSION**Minutes****Monday 21 February 2022, 4.00pm****Attendance**

- Lord Speaker (Chair)
- Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Deputy Chair)
- Mathew Duncan (external member) – *virtually*
- Baroness Evans of Bowes Park – *virtually*
- Lord German
- Lord Hill of Oareford – *virtually*
- Lord Judge
- Lord Newby
- Nora Senior (external member)
- Baroness Smith of Basildon
- Lord Touhig
- Lord Vaux of Harrowden – *virtually*

Simon Burton, Clerk of the Parliaments, and Andy Helliwell, Chief Operating Officer, were in attendance.

The Commission discussed ongoing work on support for the health of members. Some points were raised which would be reflected in a paper to be considered at a future meeting.

I. Eligibility of members participating virtually to claim the daily allowance

Simon Burton (Clerk of the Parliaments)
C/21-22/68; HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Simon Burton presented the paper which invited the Commission to consider the allowances claimable by members of the House who participate remotely.

[Restricted Access –More Information].

The Commission:

- Did not support allowing eligible remote members to claim the daily allowance (1) for attending without participating or intending to participate and (2) who, having signed up to speak or indicated their wish to take part remotely in an item of business by the deadline, and who is present on the call when that business is taken, but is not called to speak;
- agreed that an eligible remote member who participates as a whip should be able to claim the daily allowance;

- noted the origins and development of the scheme of financial support for members; and
- *[Restricted Access –More Information]*.

2. External Management Review Update

(James Whittle, External Management Review Implementation Lead)
C/21-22/69; HIGHLY RESTRICTED

James Whittle presented the paper, which provided the Commission with an update on progress in implementing the recommendations of the External Management Review. Andy Helliwell said rapid progress was now being made, overseen by robust governance arrangements.

In discussion the following points were raised or noted:

- The paper was welcome but subsequent updates should provide a greater sense of progress, more narrative and greater detail about what the changes mean in practice.
- That further work on values and behaviours was outstanding.
- The need for clearer communications about EMR to members.
- The need to be clear about what EMR recommendations were not being implemented.
- The need for the Commission to reach a view, either way, on the merits of placing the Commission on a statutory footing.

The Commission noted the update on the External Management Review.

3. Security briefing

(Alison Giles, Director of Security for Parliament)
C/21-22/70; HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Parliament Square Streetscape Project

(Ian Dougal, Head of Security Projects, Parliamentary Security Department)
C/21-22/71; HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Alison Giles and Ian Dougal presented their papers.

[Restricted Access –More Information].

The Commission noted the Security briefing and the update on the Parliament Square Streetscape Project.

4. Valuing Everyone refresh

(Sarah Brader, Director of Culture Change)
C/21-22/72; HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Chloe Mawson presented the paper, which sought the Commission's endorsement of the high-level approach to the Valuing Everyone refresh, including the provision of a

seminar to new members of the parliamentary community. The Conduct Committee would consider whether the seminar should be mandatory on 8 March.

[Restricted Access –More Information].

The Commission:

- endorsed the content themes and the high-level delivery approach;
- agreed that once each Parliament existing members of the House should be asked to reflect on valuing everyone refresh information through a series of existing communications channels rather than through attendance at a dedicated seminar; and
- agreed that the proposed seminar should be completed by new members of the House of Lords within their first three months of joining as currently set out in the Code of Conduct subject to the views of the Conduct Committee and the House; and by new staff joiners to the Administration as part of their induction schedule.

5. Any Other Business and Next Meetings

Andy Helliwell provided an update on the current Covid-19 position following the Government announcement on lifting the remaining restrictions. The House of Commons Commission would consider restoring full public access to its chamber and committees on 28 February. The Commission agreed that public access to the Lords Chamber and Committees should resume with effect from 28 February, subject to room capacities and the unavailability of the East and West Galleries until after Easter due to works required on the TV screens in the Chamber. The Commission would be invited to consider a further paper, by correspondence, on the proposed arrangements, including testing requirements and changes to Parliamentary policies in the light of the Government's announcement.

On the R&R Programme, the Commission noted:

- An update on the proposed estimates process from Andy Helliwell. The proposed estimate would be considered by the Commissions in March and by the Estimates Commission after the Easter recess. The estimate would not be formally considered by the Finance Committees but Lord Vaux of Harrowden, as Chair of the Finance Committee, had been briefed and was content with the approach.
- That a joint meeting with the House of Commons Commission would take place in March, to discuss next steps on R&R governance.
- A letter from Mathew Duncan, as Chair of the Audit Committee, on the future of the Programme.

The Commission noted that the Commission Group would consider the 2022-23 Corporate Business Plan and the Parliamentary Estate Masterplan, before they were both formally considered at the next meeting of the Commission on 21 March.

Lord Touhig, as Chair of the Services Committee, noted a GP service trial would begin shortly. The Commission thanked Lord Touhig for his work on this matter.

Also circulated for information:

- **Clerk of the Parliaments' Monthly Update**
Simon Burton (Clerk of the Parliaments)
C/21-22/73; RESTRICTED

The Commission noted that Tracey Jessup was leaving the Parliamentary Digital Service and recorded its thanks for her services to Parliament.

- **R&R Programme Quarterly Report Q3 2021-22**
C/21-22/74; HIGHLY RESTRICTED

Michael Torrance
Interim Secretary to the Commission