

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION / MEC

**Monday 21 March 2022 at 9.30 am
Meeting in the Speaker's Study**

Present:

The Speaker, in the Chair
Nickie Aiken
Nick Brown
Thangam Debbonaire
Mark Spencer
Sir Charles Walker
Pete Wishart
Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House)
Marianne Cwynarski (Director General (Operations))
Mr Shrinivas Honap (External member)
Louise Wilson (External member)

Apologies:

None

DECISIONS

COMMISSION/MEC

1. New Member – Declaration of Financial Interests

The Commission welcomed Mark Spencer and took note of his declared financial interests.

COMMISSION

2. Reports and updates

- a. TUS and Members' staff representatives update
- b. Covid update
- c. Updates from the Administration Committee, Finance Committee and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- d. House Service update

The Commission noted that increasing covid case rates in England were being reflected in cases on the estate and agreed that those testing positive should be encouraged to report their results to the House so that numbers could continue to be monitored.

The Commission took note of House Service updates which included the management of asbestos on the estate and the Transforming Digital programme.

The salary to be advertised for the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards recruitment was agreed.

3. a) R&R update

The Commission:

- a) took note of the statement published on Friday 18 March, which was agreed by circulation, following the joint meeting of the House of Lords Commission and House of Commons Commission which took place on Thursday 17 March.
- b) endorsed the parameters, as published in the statement, to support the development of new proposals for the works.
- c) noting that both Commissions have agreed to a change in the sponsor function, agreed that further consideration should be given to the transfer of the sponsor function into Parliament or to a different arm's length body.
- d) agreed the approach proposed at the joint Commission meeting to seek independent advice and assurance.
- e) noted the activities underway to support planning for transition from the existing governance arrangements.

b) R&R Phase 1 Expenditure Limit adjustment for 2022/23

The Commission:

- a) Approved a revised Phase 1 Expenditure Limit for the Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body to take account of the forecast expenditure for 2022/23 (£87m). The revised Phase 1 Expenditure Limit will be £304m.
- b) Endorsed the Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body Main Estimate for 2022/23 for submission to the R&R Estimates Commission.
- c) Noted that as a result of the current uncertainties regarding the future of the R&R Programme, a further variation to the Phase 1 Expenditure Limit and a Supplementary Estimate are likely to be required before the end of 2022/23.

4. Parliamentary Estate Development Framework

The Commission endorsed the concept and direction of the Parliamentary Estate Development Framework.

5. Pay Remit for 2022/23

The Commission agreed the pay remit for 2022/23.

6. Accounting Officer Delegation: Proposal to introduce framework threshold for internal delegation

The Commission approved the revised framework for approval of expenditure exceeding specific limits with effect from 1 April 2022.

COMMISSION/MEC

7. Papers to note

The Commission took note of the following papers:

- **Transforming Digital**
- **Deliberations from the meeting held on Tuesday 4 January**
- **Deliberations from the meeting held on Monday 10 January**
- **Deliberations from the meeting held on Tuesday 1 February**

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 25 April 2022 at 10.00 am in the Speaker's Study.