



House of Commons
Liaison Committee

Modernisation of language in standing orders relating to select committees

**Fifth Special Report of Session
2007–08**

*Ordered by The House of Commons
to be printed 16 October 2008*

The Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee is appointed to consider general matters relating to the work of select committees; to advise the House of Commons Commission on select committees; to choose select committee reports for debate in the House and to hear evidence from the Prime Minister on matters of public policy.

Current membership

Mr Alan Williams MP (*Labour, Swansea West*) (Chairman)

The Chairmen for the time being of the Select Committees listed below:

Administration – Mr Frank Doran MP (*Labour, Aberdeen North*)
Business and Enterprise – Peter Luff MP (*Conservative, Mid Worcestershire*)
Children, Schools and Families – Mr Barry Sheerman MP (*Labour/Co-op, Huddersfield*)
Communities and Local Government – Dr Phyllis Starkey MP (*Labour, Milton Keynes South West*)
Culture, Media and Sport – Mr John Whittingdale MP (*Conservative, Maldon and Chelmsford East*)
Defence – Mr James Arbuthnot MP (*Conservative, North East Hampshire*)
Environmental Audit – Mr Tim Yeo MP (*Conservative, South Suffolk*)
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs – Mr Michael Jack MP (*Conservative, Fylde*)
European Scrutiny – Michael Connarty MP (*Labour, Linlithgow and East Falkirk*)
Finance and Services – Sir Stuart Bell MP (*Labour, Middlesbrough*)
Foreign Affairs – Mike Gapes MP (*Labour/Co-op, Ilford South*)
Health – Mr Kevin Barron MP (*Labour, Rother Valley*)
Home Affairs – Keith Vaz MP (*Labour, Leicester East*)
Human Rights (Joint Committee) – Mr Andrew Dismore MP (*Labour, Hendon*)
Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills – Mr Phil Willis MP (*Liberal Democrat, Harrogate and Knaresborough*)
International Development – Malcolm Bruce MP (*Liberal Democrat, Gordon*)
Justice – Sir Alan Beith MP (*Liberal Democrat, Berwick-upon-Tweed*)
Northern Ireland Affairs – Sir Patrick Cormack MP (*Conservative, South Staffordshire*)
Procedure – Mr Greg Knight MP (*Conservative, Yorkshire East*)
Public Accounts – Mr Edward Leigh MP (*Conservative, Gainsborough*)
Public Administration – Dr Tony Wright MP (*Labour, Cannock Chase*)
Regulatory Reform – Andrew Miller MP (*Labour, Ellesmere Port and Neston*)
Scottish Affairs – Mr Mohammad Sarwar MP (*Labour, Glasgow Central*)
Selection – Rosemary McKenna MP (*Labour, Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East*)
Standards and Privileges – Sir George Young MP (*Conservative, North West Hampshire*)
Statutory Instruments – David Maclean MP (*Conservative, Penrith and The Border*)
Transport – Mrs Louise Ellman MP (*Labour/Co-op, Liverpool Riverside*)
Treasury – John McFall MP (*Labour/Co-op, West Dunbartonshire*)
Welsh Affairs – Dr Hywel Francis MP (*Labour, Aberavon*)
Work and Pensions – Mr Terry Rooney MP (*Labour, Bradford North*)

Powers

The powers of the Committee are set out in House of Commons SO No 145. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/liaison_committee.cfm.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Helen Irwin (Clerk), Robert Wilson (Second Clerk), Kevin Candy (Committee Assistant) and Catherine Close (Secretary).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Liaison Committee, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5675; the Committee's email address is liaisoncommittee@parliament.uk

1 Modernisation of language in standing orders relating to select committees

1. The language used to describe select committee documents and proceedings has increasingly diverged from the language of the House's standing orders. We make here some proposals for changing the language of the standing orders to bring them into line with current practice. The proposals relate entirely to terminology, and do not make any changes of substance.

2. The proposals are set out in Annex 1. In summary, they do the following:

- change 'minutes of proceedings' to 'formal minutes';
- change 'minutes of evidence' to 'evidence';
- change 'the examination of witnesses' to 'oral evidence sessions';
- change 'memoranda of evidence' to 'written evidence'; and
- change 'laid on the Table of the House' to 'reported to the House'.

3. We commend these changes to the House.

Annex 1

Proposed changes to standing orders

SO 125

Line 2, leave out ‘the examination of witnesses’ and insert ‘oral evidence sessions’.

SO 128

Line 5, leave out ‘minutes of the proceedings’ and insert ‘formal minutes’. [+ change side heading]

SO 129

Line 1, leave out ‘minutes of the proceedings’ and insert ‘formal minutes’.

Line 2, leave out ‘laid on the Table of’ and insert ‘reported to’.

SO 130

Line 2, leave out ‘minutes of’ and insert ‘record of the’.

SO 131

Line 2, leave out ‘under examination’.

SO 133

Line 3, leave out ‘minutes of the’.

SO 135

Line 5, leave out ‘memoranda of evidence’ and insert ‘written evidence’.

SO 137

Line 4, leave out ‘minutes of proceedings’ and insert ‘formal minutes’.

Line 5, leave out ‘minutes of’.

Line 12, leave out ‘laid upon the Table’ and insert ‘reported’.

SO 139

Line 34, leave out ‘minutes of their proceedings’ and insert ‘its formal minutes’.

SO 143

Line 62, leave out ‘minutes of’.

SO 145

Line 35, leave out ‘minutes of’.

SO 146

Line 27, leave out ‘minutes of’.

SO 152

Line 21, leave out ‘minutes of’.

Line 22, leave out ‘to lay upon the Table of the House the minutes of the proceedings’ and insert ‘the formal minutes’.

Line 28, leave out ‘minutes of their proceedings’ and insert ‘their formal minutes’.

SO 152A

Line 26, leave out ‘minutes of’.