

ADDENDUM  
TO THE  
STANDING ORDERS  
OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
RELATING TO PUBLIC BUSINESS

3 June 2009

Amendments to Standing Order No. 121 (Select Committees), Standing Order No. 145 (Liaison Committee), No. 149 (Committee on Standards and Privileges), Standing Order No. 150 (Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards), Standing Order No. 152D (House of Commons Members Estimate Committee) and Standing Order No. 152G (Committee on Members' Allowances).

New Standing Order No. 152H (Planning: national policy statements).

Amendment to Temporary Standing Order (Liaison Committee Membership).

*Reprinted from the  
Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons  
of 9 February 2009, 3 March 2009, 30 April 2009  
and 20 May 2009*



*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 121 (Select Committees) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Nomination of select committees*

**121.**—(1) Any Member intending to propose that certain Members be members of a select committee, or be discharged from a select committee, shall give notice of the names of Members whom he intends so to propose, shall endeavour to ascertain previously whether each such Member will give his attendance on the committee, and shall endeavour to give notice to any Member whom he proposes to be discharged from the committee.

Nomination of  
select  
committees.

(2) No motion shall be made for the nomination of members of select committees appointed under the standing orders of this House (with the exception of the Liaison Committee, the Committee of Selection, the Committee on Standards and Privileges and any Committee established under a temporary standing order), or for their discharge, unless—

(a) notice of the motion has been given at least two sitting days previously, and

(b) (i) *in the case of a motion to agree with a report from the Liaison Committee to appoint and nominate Members to a National Policy Statement Committee under Standing Order No. 152H (Planning: national policy statements) the motion is made on behalf of the Liaison Committee by the chairman or another member of the committee; or*

---

1. New text shown in italics.

*(ii) in other cases* the motion is made on behalf of the Committee of Selection by the chairman or another member of the committee. 25

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 145 (Liaison Committee) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Liaison Committee*

Liaison  
Committee.

**145.**—(1) A select committee shall be appointed, to be called the Liaison Committee—

*(a)* to consider general matters relating to the work of select committees,

*(b)* to give such advice relating to the work of select committees as may be sought by the House of Commons Commission, and 5

*(c)* to report to the House its choice of select committee reports to be debated on such days as may be appointed by the Speaker in pursuance of paragraph (13) of Standing Order No. 10 (Sittings in Westminster Hall). 10

(2) The committee may also hear evidence from the Prime Minister on matters of public policy.

(3) The committee shall report its recommendations as to the allocation of time for consideration by the House of the estimates on any day or half day which may be allotted for that purpose; and upon a motion being made that the House do agree with any such report the question shall be put forthwith 15

---

1. New text shown in italics.

20 and, if that question is agreed to, the recommendations shall  
have effect as if they were orders of the House:

Proceedings in pursuance of this paragraph, though opposed,  
may be decided after the expiration of the time for opposed  
business.

25 (4) The committee shall have power to send for persons,  
papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of  
the House, and to report from time to time.

(5) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member  
nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of  
it for the remainder of the Parliament.

30 (6) *The committee shall have power to appoint two sub-  
committees, one of which shall be a National Policy Statements  
sub-committee.*

(7) *A National Policy Statements sub-committee—*

*(a) shall be composed of—*

35 *(i) those members of the committee who are  
members of the Communities and Local Government,  
Energy and Climate Change, Environment, Food  
and Rural Affairs, Transport and Welsh Affairs  
Committees; and*

40 *(ii) up to two other members of the committee, one  
of whom shall be appointed chairman of the sub-  
committee;*

45 *(b) shall report to the committee on the use of the  
committee's powers under paragraph (1) of Standing  
Order No. 152H (Planning: national policy  
statements); and*

*(c) may report to the committee on matters relating to national policy statements under the Planning Act 2008.*

*(8) Each sub-committee shall have—* 50

*(a) a quorum of three; and*

*(b) power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, and to report to the committee from time to time.*

*(9) The committee shall have power to report from time to time the minutes of evidence taken before any sub-committee.* 55

*(10) The quorum of the committee shall be as provided in Standing Order No. 124 (Quorum of select committees), save that for consideration of a report from a National Policy Statements sub-committee under sub-paragraph (7)(b) the quorum shall be three.* 60

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 149  
(Committee on Standards and Privileges)  
is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Committee on Standards and Privileges*

Committee on Standards and Privileges.

**149.**—(1) There shall be a select committee, called the Committee on Standards and Privileges—

---

1. New text shown in italics.

(a) to consider specific matters relating to privileges referred to it by the House;

5 (b) to oversee the work of the Parliamentary  
Commissioner for Standards; to examine the  
arrangements proposed by the Commissioner for the  
10 compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the  
Register of Members' *Financial* Interests and any other  
registers of interest established by the House; to review  
from time to time the form and content of those  
registers; and to consider any specific complaints made  
in relation to the registering or declaring of interests  
referred to it by the Commissioner; and

15 (c) to consider any matter relating to the conduct of  
Members, including specific complaints in relation to  
alleged breaches in any code of conduct to which the  
House has agreed and which have been drawn to the  
committee's attention by the Commissioner; and to  
20 recommend any modifications to such code of conduct  
as may from time to time appear to be necessary.

(2) The committee shall consist of ten Members, of whom five shall be a quorum.

25 (3) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member  
nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of  
it for the remainder of the Parliament.

(4) The committee shall have power to appoint  
sub-committees consisting of no more than seven Members, of  
whom three shall be a quorum, and to refer to such  
30 sub-committees any of the matters referred to the committee.

(5) The committee and any sub-committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place,

to report from time to time, to appoint legal advisers, and to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee's order of reference. 35

(6) The committee shall have power to order the attendance of any Member before the committee or any sub-committee and to require that specific documents or records in the possession of a Member relating to its inquiries, or to the inquiries of a sub-committee or of the Commissioner, be laid before the committee or any sub-committee. 40

(7) The committee, or any sub-committee, shall have power to refer to unreported evidence of former Committees of Privileges or of former Select Committees on Members' Interests and to any documents circulated to any such committee. 45

(8) The committee shall have power to refuse to allow proceedings to which the public are admitted to be broadcast. 50

(9) Mr Attorney General, the Advocate General and Mr Solicitor General, being Members of the House, may attend the committee or any sub-committee, may take part in deliberations, may receive committee or sub-committee papers and may give such other assistance to the committee or sub-committee as may be appropriate, but shall not vote or make any motion or move any amendment or be counted in the quorum. 55



*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 150  
(Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards)  
is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards*

**150.**—(1) There shall be an Officer of this House, called the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, who shall be appointed by the House. Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

(2) The principal duties of the Commissioner shall be—

- 5           (a) to maintain the Register of Members' *Financial*  
Interests and any other registers of interest established  
by the House, and to make such arrangements for the  
10           compilation, maintenance and accessibility of those  
registers as are approved by the Committee on  
Standards and Privileges or an appropriate  
sub-committee thereof;
- (b) to provide advice confidentially to Members and other  
persons or bodies subject to registration on matters  
relating to the registration of individual interests;
- 15           (c) to advise the Committee on Standards and Privileges,  
its sub-committees and individual Members on the  
interpretation of any code of conduct to which the  
House has agreed and on questions of propriety;
- 20           (d) to monitor the operation of such code and registers,  
and to make recommendations thereon to the  
Committee on Standards and Privileges or an  
appropriate sub-committee thereof; and

---

1. New text shown in italics.

- (e) to receive and, if he thinks fit, investigate specific complaints from Members and from members of the public in respect of— 25
- (i) the registration or declaration of interests, or
  - (ii) other aspects of the propriety of a Member's conduct,
- and to report to the Committee on Standards and Privileges or to an appropriate sub-committee thereof unless the provisions of paragraph (3) apply. 30
- (3) No report shall be made by the Commissioner—
- (a) in any case where the Member concerned has agreed that he has failed to register or declare an interest, if it is the Commissioner's opinion that the interest involved is minor, or the failure was inadvertent, and the Member concerned has taken such action by way of rectification as the Commissioner may have required within any procedure approved by the Committee for this purpose; and 35 40
  - (b) in any case involving parliamentary allowances, or the use of facilities or services, if the Commissioner has with the agreement of the Member concerned referred the matter to the relevant Officer of the House for the purpose of securing appropriate financial reimbursement, and the Member has made such reimbursement within such period of time as the Commissioner considers reasonable. 45
- (4) The Commissioner may at any time in the course of investigating a complaint, and if so requested by the Committee on Standards and Privileges shall, appoint an 50

Investigatory Panel to assist him in establishing the facts relevant to the investigation.

(5) An Investigatory Panel shall—

55 (a) consist of the Commissioner, who shall be Chairman  
of the Panel, and two assessors, one of whom shall be a  
legally qualified person appointed by the  
Commissioner and the other shall be a Member, who  
60 shall not be a member of the Committee on Standards  
and Privileges, appointed by the Speaker; and

(b) meet in private.

(6) The Commissioner—

(a) shall determine the procedures of the Panel, subject to  
the provisions of this order; and

65 (b) may appoint counsel for the purpose of assisting the  
Panel.

(7) Any report that the Commissioner may have made to the  
Committee on Standards and Privileges in relation to the  
complaint before the appointment of the Panel shall be made  
70 available to the Panel by the Committee.

(8) Any Member who is the subject of the complaint under  
investigation shall, if he so requests, be heard by the Panel;  
may call witnesses; and may examine other witnesses.

(9) When the Panel has completed its proceedings—

75 (a) the Commissioner shall report as in paragraph (2)(e);

(b) the legal assessor shall report to the Committee on  
Standards and Privileges his opinion as to the extent to

which its proceedings have been consistent with the principles of natural justice; and

(c) the Member assessor may report to the Committee on Standards and Privileges his opinion as to the extent to which its proceedings have had regard to the customs and practice of the House and its Members. 80

(10) The Commissioner shall report each year to the House on the exercise by him of his functions. 85

(11) The Commissioner may be dismissed only following a resolution of the House, moved for by a Member of the House of Commons Commission, after the Committee on Standards and Privileges has reported to the House that it is satisfied that the Commissioner is unfit to hold his office or unable to carry out his functions; and any such report shall include a statement of the Committee's reasons for its conclusion. 90

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 152D  
(House of Commons Members Estimate Committee)  
is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*House of Commons Members Estimate Committee*

House of  
Commons  
Members  
Estimate  
Committee.

**152D.**—(1) There shall be a committee of this House, called the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee.

(2) The members of the committee shall be those Members who are at any time members of the House of Commons Commission pursuant to section 1 of the House of Commons 5

---

1. New text shown in italics.

(Administration) Act 1978; the Speaker shall be chairman of the committee; and three shall be the quorum of the committee.

(3) The functions of the committee shall be—

10 (a) to codify and keep under review the provisions of the resolutions of this House *and the Guide to Members' Allowances known as the Green Book* relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members;

15 (b) to modify those provisions from time to time as the committee may think necessary or desirable in the interests of clarity, consistency, accountability and effective administration, and conformity with current circumstances;

20 (c) to provide advice, when requested by the Speaker, on the application of those provisions in individual cases;

(d) to carry out the responsibilities conferred on the Speaker by the resolution of the House of 5th July 2001 relating to Members' Allowances, Insurance, &c;

25 (e) to consider appeals against determinations made by the Committee on Members' Allowances under paragraph (1)(d) of Standing Order No. 152G.

(4) Paragraph (3)(b) above does not empower the committee—

30 (a) to create a new form of charge on the Estimate for House of Commons: Members; or

(b) to increase any rate of charge or payment determined by resolution of this House.

(5) The committee shall report to the House from time to time, and in any case not less than once a year, the provisions of the resolutions of this House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members, as codified and modified pursuant to paragraph (3) of this order. 35

(6) The committee shall have power to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

*The text of the amended Standing Order 152G  
(Committee on Members' Allowances) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Committee on Members' Allowances*

Committee on  
Members'  
Allowances.

**152G.**—(1) There shall be a select committee, called the Committee on Members' Allowances,

(a) to advise the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee on the discharge of its functions; and

(b) to advise the Speaker, the Members Estimate Committee and the Leader of the House on the potential development of the arrangements made by or under the Resolutions in force from time to time regarding Members' allowances &c; 5

(c) to approve practice notes to be used in administering Members' allowances which may be issued by the House; and 10

(d) to determine (subject to any appeal to the Members Estimate Committee) the application of the rules in such individual cases as may be referred to them by 15

---

1. New text shown in italics.

*Members, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Committee.*

(2) The committee shall consist of eight members;

20 (3) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament;

25 (4) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to appoint specialist advisers and to report from time to time.

*The text of the new Standing Order No. 152H (Planning: national policy statements) is as follows.*

*Planning: national policy statements*

**152H.**—(1) Whenever a proposal for a national policy statement is laid before this House under section 9(2) of the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'), the Liaison Committee shall report either—

Planning:  
national policy  
statements.

5 (a) that it has designated a select committee appointed under Standing Order No. 152, or

(b) that it recommends the appointment of a National Policy Statement Committee to consider the proposal.

(2) A National Policy Statement Committee—

10 (a) shall be composed of not fewer than seven nor more than fourteen members, all of whom shall be, at the

time of nomination, members of one or more of the following select committees—

Communities and Local Government

Energy and Climate Change 15

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Transport

Welsh Affairs;

(b) shall have power—

(i) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place within the UK; and 20

(ii) to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee's order of reference; and 25

(c) may report from time to time and shall cease to exist either—

(i) if it has reported on the proposal before the designated date, when the relevant national policy statement or amended national policy statement has been laid under section 5(9) or section 6(9) of the Act; or 30

(ii) if it has not reported on the proposal before the designated date, on the designated date. 35



40 (3) A committee designated or appointed to consider a proposal for a national policy statement shall have power, in the course of its proceedings under this order, to invite Members of the House who are not members of the committee to attend, and, at the discretion of the chairman, take part in, its proceedings, but such Members may not move any motion or amendment to any motion or draft report, nor vote nor be counted in the quorum of the committee.

45 (4) If a committee designated or appointed to consider a proposal for a national policy statement has not reported on the proposal before the designated date, then the chairman of the committee shall report that the committee makes no recommendation with regard to the proposal.

50 (5) For the purposes of this Order, the designated date in relation to any proposal for a national policy statement is the thirty-ninth day before the expiry of the relevant period defined under section 9(6) of the Act.

*Temporary Standing Order*

*The text of the Temporary Standing Order (Liaison Committee (Membership)) is as follows.<sup>1</sup>*

*Liaison Committee (Membership)  
13th July 2005*

(1) With effect for the current Parliament, notwithstanding Standing Order No. 121 (Nomination of select committees), the Chairman for the time being of each of the Select Committees listed in paragraph (2) below shall be a member of the Liaison Committee;

5

(2) The Committees to which paragraph (1) above applies are:

Administration	Innovation, Universities and Skills
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	International Development Justice
Children, Schools and Families	<i>Committee on Members'</i>
Communities and Local Government	<i>Allowances</i> Northern Ireland Affairs
Culture, Media and Sport	Procedure
Defence	Public Accounts
Energy and Climate Change	Public Administration
Environmental Audit	Regulatory Reform
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Scottish Affairs Selection
European Scrutiny	Standards and Privileges
Finance and Services	Statutory Instruments

---

1. New text shown in italics

Foreign Affairs	Transport
Health	Treasury
Home Affairs	Welsh Affairs
Joint Committee on Human Rights (the Chairman being a Member of this House)	Work and Pensions;

and

*10* (3) Mr Alan Williams shall also be a member of the Liaison Committee.

(4) In addition to the members appointed under paragraphs (2) and (3) of this order, one Member who is for the time being the Chairman of a Regional Select Committee shall be a member of the Liaison Committee.

*15* (5) The question on a motion in the names of the chairmen of all the Regional Select Committees to nominate a member of the Liaison Committee under paragraph (4) shall be put forthwith and may be decided after the moment of interruption.

