THE SPEAKER’S COMMITTEE
ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FIRST REPORT 2015

Work of the Committee in 2014

*Presented to the House of Commons in pursuance of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000*

*Ordered by The House of Commons
  to be printed 27 May 2015*
The Speaker’s Committee

The Speaker’s Committee is appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to perform the functions conferred on it by that Act.

Membership

Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons (Chair)
Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Lord President of the Council
Mr Graham Allen MP, Chair of the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee
Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government
Rt Hon Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Tracey Crouch MP
Naomi Long MP
Bridget Phillipson MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP

Previous Reports

First Report 2010 was published in July 2010 as HC 320 of Session 2010–11
Second Report 2010 was published in January 2011 as HC 724 of Session 2010–11
First Report 2011 was published in March 2011 as HC 916 of Session 2010–11
Second Report 2011 was published in September 2011 as HC 1478 of Session 2010–12
Third Report 2011 was published in October 2011 as HC 1509 of Session 2010–12
Fourth Report 2011 was published in December 2011 as HC 1701 of Session 2010–12
First Report 2012 was published in March 2012 as HC 1897 of Session 2010–12
Second Report 2012 was published in March 2012 as HC 1898 of Session 2010–12
Third Report 2012 was published in June 2012 as HC 201 of Session 2012–13
First Report 2013 was published in January 2013 as HC 937 of Session 2012–13
Second Report 2013 was published in March 2013 as HC 1068 of Session 2012–13
Third Report 2013 was published in March 2013 as HC 1069 of Session 2012–13
Fourth Report 2013 was published in June 2013 as HC 343 of Session 2012–13
First Report 2014 was published in March 2014 as HC 1172 of Session 2013–14
Second Report 2014 was published in May 2014 as HC 1173 of Session 2013–14
Third Report 2014 was published in July 2014 as HC 446 of Session 2014–15

Contacts

The Secretary of the Speaker’s Committee is Eve Samson. Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary of the Speaker’s Committee
Journal Office
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Email: speakerscommittee@parliament.uk
Telephone inquiries: 020 7219 3351
Fax: 020 7219 2269
Contents

Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentary Accountability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment of Electoral Commissioners</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to Governance Procedure of the LGBCE and the Electoral Commission: the Deregulation Act</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Scrutiny</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Estimates for 2014/15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplementary Estimates for 2014/15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Estimates for 2015/16</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot paper description</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appendix A: Minutes of the Speaker’s Committee                          | 10   |
Introduction


2. Under paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 2 to the PPERA, the Speaker’s Committee is required to report to the House of Commons not less than once a year on the exercise of its functions. The last annual Report formally covered the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013, while also making reference to work in progress in early 2014. This report covers the period from 1 January 2014 to 30 March 2015, the end of the current Parliament.

Membership

3. The Committee has nine members, five of whom are members of the House of Commons who are not Ministers and are appointed by the Speaker. One member—a Member of the House of Commons who is a Minister with responsibilities in relation to local government—is appointed by the Prime Minister. Other ex officio members include the Lord President of the Council (currently the Deputy Prime Minister) and Chair of the House of Commons Select Committee responsible for electoral matters (Mr Graham Allen MP, Chair of the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee). The Committee is chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

4. There have been no changes in membership of the Committee in the period covered by this report.

Meetings

5. The Committee met ten times during the period covered by this report. The minutes of the Committee’s meetings are reproduced in Appendix A. The Chair and officials of the Electoral Commission and the Chair and officials of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England attended parts of some meetings at the invitation of the Committee.

Parliamentary Accountability

6. The Committee provides a mechanism for Members of Parliament to ask questions in the House of Commons about the work of the Electoral Commission. In 2014, Mr Gary Streeter MP answered questions on behalf of the Committee. During the period covered by this Report, Mr Streeter replied to 17 questions on the floor of the House and to 333 questions in writing, which represents a ten-fold increase on the number of written questions tabled and answered during 2013.

---

1 This report was agreed on 24 March 2015
Appointment of Electoral Commissioners

7. The Electoral Commission was established by Parliament as a body independent of the Government. The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as amended by the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009, provides for the Electoral Commission to have nine or ten Commissioners. These Commissioners are recruited by competition, under a procedure put in place and overseen by the Speaker’s Committee. Four Commissioners are persons put forward by the registered leader of a qualifying party for consideration for appointment; they are described in the statute as ‘nominated’ commissioners. While there are restrictions on their political activity, they are permitted to be members of parties, and to have been active in their party within the previous five years.

8. Pursuant to Section 3 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Speaker’s Committee on the Electoral Commission is responsible for determining and overseeing the procedures for selecting candidates to be put forward for appointment or re-appointment as Electoral Commissioners. The candidates for these posts are approved by the House of Commons and appointed by the Queen. During the process of making appointments, the Committee has regard to the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies.

9. In 2014, the Committee oversaw the selection process for the appointment of two nominated Electoral Commissioners. The Committee’s First Report of 2014, HC 1172, sets out the procedures and process for the appointment of Ms Bridget Prentice as the Electoral Commissioner nominated by the Leader of the Labour Party and Mr Alasdair Morgan as the Electoral Commissioner nominated by the minor parties. Following previous practice Ms Prentice was appointed for a period of four years, ending on 30 September 2018 and Mr Morgan for a period of approximately two years, ending on 30 September 2016.

10. Two further nominated Electoral Commissioners were reappointed in 2014. The Committee’s Third Report of 2014, HC 446, sets out the procedures and processes for the reappointment of John Horam as the Electoral Commissioner nominated by the Leader of the Conservative party and David Howarth as the Electoral Commissioner nominated by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats. The Chair of the Electoral Commission confirmed to the Committee that both Lord Horam and Mr Howarth had been effective members of the Commission’s Board. Following the statutory consultation with the party leaders the Committee recommended their reappointment.

11. The Committee also started the process for the reappointment of Ms Anna Carragher, Electoral Commissioner with special responsibility for Northern Ireland. The Chair of the Electoral Commission confirmed that Ms Carragher had been an effective member of the Commission’s Board. In response to the statutory consultation the Committee received positive responses from the leaders of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour

---

2 PPERA s1(3) as amended by s6 of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009
3 PPERA s3A(2)
4 PPERA s3A(2)
5 PPERA s3(4) and s4(4A)
parties. Subject to the responses from the leaders of parties representing Northern Irish seats, the Committee will complete the reappointment process early in the next Parliament.

Changes to Governance Procedure of the LGBCE and the Electoral Commission: the Deregulation Act

12. In its Second Report of 2014, HC 1173, the Committee reported that it had supported the request from the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Boundary Commission England for changes to their respective governance arrangements as set out in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 respectively.

13. The Government accepted the arguments in favour of the proposed changes to the financial reporting arrangements of the Electoral Commission and LGBCE and agreed that the Deregulation Bill provided an appropriate legislative vehicle. Currently, both bodies are required to have their finances scrutinised through an annual value for money report carried out by the National Audit Office and an annual submission of five-year plans of each organisation submitting to the Committee. The Government tabled amendments to the Bill to provide for one statutory five-year plan and one value for money study to be conducted in every Parliament, complemented by giving the Speaker’s Committee power to require further such studies as and when it sees fit. The LGBCE has also been given power to appoint independent members to any committee or sub-committee of the Commission appointed to review the economy, efficiency or effectiveness with which the Commission has used its resources. The Government will commence these provisions by Order.

Financial Scrutiny

14. The Committee’s role is to examine the five-year plans and the estimates of resources needed for both the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The Electoral Commission’s main priorities are: electoral registration; participation in elections and referendums; electoral fraud the electoral framework and political and campaign funding and expenditure. The LGBCE’s main objective is to provide boundary arrangements for English local authorities that are fair and deliver electoral equality for voters.

15. The Speaker’s Committee must decide whether it is satisfied that the estimates and plans are consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge of each body’s functions. If it determines that they are not, it must modify them as necessary. In carrying out its work, the Committee consults with the Treasury and has regard to reports received from the National Audit Office concerning each body’s use of resources.

16. In the period covered by this report the Committee considered the main estimates for the LGBCE and Electoral Commission for both 2014–15 and 2015–16. Following consultation with both bodies and the Treasury it was agreed that consideration of the main estimates for 2015–16 should be completed prior to the General Election.
**Main Estimates for 2014/15**

17. In accordance with statute, the Committee formally considered the draft Main Estimates for 2014/15 and the draft corporate plans for 2014/15 – 2018/19 of both the Electoral Commission and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. As in previous years the Committee appointed a sub-committee, chaired by Mr Streeter, to take evidence from the two bodies on their estimates and corporate plans. On 4 February the sub-committee took oral evidence from Mr Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, and Ms Carolyn Hughes, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Electoral Commission, and Mr Alan Cogbill, Chief Executive and Ms Lynn Ingram, Director of Finance, LGBCE.

18. In reaching its decision on the Electoral Commission’s and LGBCE’s Main Estimates for 2014/15, the Speaker’s Committee had regard to the advice of the Treasury, as set out in the letter from the Chief Secretary to the Speaker dated 18 March 2013. In relation to the Electoral Commission, the Committee had regard to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the Electoral Commission’s analysis of the cost of the parliamentary voting system referendum, which constitutes ‘the most recent report’ for the purposes of paragraph 15(3)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. In relation to the LGBCE, the Committee had regard to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the LGBCE’s contract for back office services, which constitutes ‘the most recent report’ for the purposes of paragraphs 11 and 12 of Schedule 1 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

19. On 2 April 2014, the Committee agreed without modification the Electoral Commission’s and LGBCE’s Main Estimates and corporate plans.

In relation to the LGBCE, the Committee agreed a voted Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit for 2014–15 of £2,401,000 and a voted Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit for the LGBCE for 2014–15 of £50,000, as consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by the LGBCE of its functions in that year. It also agreed, on the same basis, a Net Cash Requirement for 2014–15 of £2,377,000.

The Committee agreed, as a basis for forward planning by the Commission, an estimated total resource and capital spend of £2,451,000 for 2014–15. The Committee also approved indicative estimates of resource and capital expenditure of £2,187,000 for 2015–16, £2,101,000 for 2016–17, £2,021,000 for 2017–18 and £2,021,000 for 2018–19.
In relation to the Electoral Commission, the Committee agreed a voted Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit for the Electoral Commission for 2014–15 of £22,531,000, a voted Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit of £250,000 and a voted Resource Annually Managed Expenditure of -£200,000, as consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by the Commission of its functions in that year. The Committee agreed a Net Cash Requirement for 2014–15 of £ 22,276,000.

In relation to the resource implications of the corporate plan, the Committee agreed, as a basis for forward planning by the Electoral Commission, an estimated total resource and capital spend of £24,343,000 for 2014–15. The Committee also approved indicative estimates of resource and capital expenditure of £2,313,000 for 2015–16, £18,055,000 for 2016–17, £15,455,000 for 2017–18 and £14,555,000 for 2018–19.

20. The Estimates for future years remain subject to annual approval by the Committee. In this context, the Committee will expect variations in future Estimates and plans from the Net Resources and Capital figures for 2014–15 onwards, as set out in the corporate plan, to be drawn to its attention at the appropriate time and properly justified. On this basis the Committee approved the revised draft corporate plan for 2014–15 to 2018–19, without amendment.

**Supplementary Estimates for 2014/15**

21. On 16 December 2014, having consulted with the Treasury, the Speaker’s Committee also agreed the Electoral Commission’s draft Supplementary Estimate 2014–15 and the LGBCE Supplementary Estimate 2014–15. In both cases the Supplementary Estimate was required to make minor technical adjustments and had no resource implications. At the same meeting the Committee agreed to a timetable to enable consideration and agreement of the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015–16 and associated corporate plans prior to the Dissolution of Parliament on 30 March 2015. The decision to complete consideration prior to Dissolution was informed by advice from the Treasury and discussion with the Electoral Commission and LGBCE.

**Main Estimates for 2015/16**

22. On 4 March 2015, the Committee took evidence from Max Caller, Chair and Jolyon Jackson, Chief Executive, LGBCE and Jenny Watson, Chair, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, Carolyn Hughes, Director of Finance and Corporate Services and Alex Robertson, Director of Communication, Electoral Commission. The Committee also had regard to the value for money reports provided by the Comptroller and Auditor General on the Electoral Commission’s role in the Individual Electoral Registration project and the LGBCE’s website and online consultation portal.
23. Having consulted with the Treasury, the Committee agreed without modification both the Electoral Commission’s and LGBCE’s Main Estimates for 2015–16 and associated respective corporate plans. The Committee noted the revised performance measures in the Electoral Commission’s corporate plan.

In relation to the LGBCE, the Committee agreed a voted Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit for 2015–16 of £2,137,000 and a voted Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit for 2015–16 of £50,000, as consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by the LGBCE of its functions in that year. It also agreed, on the same basis, a Net Cash Requirement for 2014–15 of £2,083,000.

In relation to the resource implications of the corporate plan the Committee agreed, as a basis for forward planning by the LGBCE, an estimated total resource and capital spend of £2,187,000 for 2015–16. The Committee also approved indicative estimates of resource and capital expenditure of £2,101,000 for 2016–17, £2,021,000 for 2017–18, £2,021,000 for 2018–19 and £2,021,000 for 2019–20.

In relation to the Electoral Commission, the Committee agreed a voted Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit for the Electoral Commission for 2015–16 of £20,876,000, a voted Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit of £250,000 and a voted Resource Annually Managed Expenditure of £30,000, as consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by the Electoral Commission of its functions in that year. The Committee agreed a Net Cash Requirement for 2015–16 of £20,597,000.

In relation to the resource implications of the corporate plan, the Committee agreed, as a basis for forward planning by the Electoral Commission, an estimated total resource and capital spend of £21,126,000 for 2015–16. The Committee also approved indicative estimates of resource and capital expenditure of £17,670,000 for 2016–17, £15,491,000 for 2017–18, £15,402,000 for 2018–19 and £16,252,000 for 2019–20.

**Ballot paper description**

24. The Committee met on 29 April to consider the circumstances surrounding the registration of an inappropriate and distressing party description, “Remember Lee Rigby”. The party description would appear on the ballot paper in the European Parliamentary elections in Wales. The Speaker told the Committee that Jenny Watson, the Chair of the Commission, had offered to resign and that the Commission’s Board had commissioned Elizabeth Butler, the independent chair of the Commission’s Audit Committee, to report on the matter.6

25. The Committee agreed that it would be premature for the Commission’s chair to resign before they had considered Ms Butler’s findings. Members also noted the steps taken by the Chair of the Commission to rectify the error and to inform and apologise to the family. On

---

6 May, Ms Butler, accompanied by Jenny Watson, presented her draft report to the Committee. Jenny Watson said that the Electoral Commission had made a serious mistake in allowing the party description to be registered. The Commission’s Board had met and accepted the recommendations in Ms Butler’s report in full. She said that the supervising member of staff had resigned, having taken responsibility for the decision to register the description.

26. Ms Watson confirmed that the party description had been removed from the register of political parties. However, under the current legislation the description had to remain on the European Parliamentary elections ballot paper in Wales. She thanked the Minister for Cities and Constitution for the efforts he made to establish whether there was any prospect of a change to the law that might correct the consequence of this mistake. Ms Watson set out the steps that were being taken to minimise the risk of a similar occurrence in the future. The Committee concluded that while the established processes and procedures appeared to have been followed Commission staff had failed to consider the context and wider implications of the party description. The Committee asked to be kept informed of progress on implementing Ms Butler’s recommendations.
Appendix A: Minutes of the Speaker’s Committee

SPEAKER’S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 24 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 5.30 PM

SPEAKER’S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (ex officio), in the Chair
Tracey Crouch MP
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Naomi Long MP
Bridget Phillipson MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 26 November 2013

The minutes of the meeting on 26 November 2013 were considered and agreed.

2. Consideration of board report for the appointment of an Electoral Commissioner: nominees from the Leader of the Labour Party

The Committee agreed the Speaker would put forward Bridget Prentice as a Commissioner nominated by the Leader of the Labour Party, for the reasons given in the report, in particular her experience as a Minister with responsibility for electoral matters.

3. Consideration of board report for the appointment of an Electoral Commissioner: minority party nominee

The Committee agreed to let the name of Alasdair Morgan go forward, on the recommendation of the panel.

The Committee agreed that Mr Morgan be appointed for a two year term, as had been the case with minor party nominated commissioners in the past, and that Ms Prentice be appointed for four years. In both cases, the term should end on 30 September, to bring it into line with that of existing nominated Commissioners.

The Speaker would consult the leaders of the political parties, asking for responses by 10 March.
4. **Statutory designation of posts at the Electoral Commission**

The Committee agreed with the proposal from Peter Wardle, Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission to designate 12 posts at the Electoral Commission under the provisions of paragraph 11B of Schedule 1 to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

[The Committee adjourned at 5.42 pm until a day and time to be proposed by the Chair.]

---

**SPEAKER’S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 25 MARCH 2014 AT 3.00 PM**

**SPEAKER’S STUDY**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (ex officio), in the Chair
Tracey Crouch MP
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Brandon Lewis MP (ex officio)
Naomi Long MP
Bridget Phillipson MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. **Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2014**

The minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2014 were considered and agreed.

2. **Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act: briefing from the Leader of the House**

The Leader of the House briefed the Committee on the aspects of the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act as they affected the work of the Electoral Commission and the way in which that was reflected in the draft Estimate and Corporate Plan.

3. **Consideration of draft Report on the Work of the Committee in 2013**

The Committee agreed a small drafting amendment to paragraph 16 of the draft report.

The Committee agreed the report.

4. **Any other business**

Brandon Lewis gave his apologies for the next meeting and said that he was content with the estimates of the Electoral Commission and LGBCE.

[The Committee adjourned at 3.15 pm until 2 April at 3.30pm.]
SPEAKER’S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 2 APRIL 2014 at 3.30 PM

COMMITTEE ROOM 21

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (ex officio), in the Chair
Tracey Crouch MP
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 25 March 2014

The minutes of the meeting on 25 March 2014 were considered and agreed.

2. Consideration of LGBCE draft corporate plan and estimate 2014–15

The Committee considered the LGBCE draft corporate plan and estimate for 2014–15.

The Committee agreed the LGBCE draft corporate plan and estimate for 2014–15 without modification.

3. Consideration of Electoral Commission’s draft corporate plan and estimate 2014–15

The Committee considered the Electoral Commission’s draft corporate plan and estimate for 2014–15.

Jenny Watson, Chair, and Carolyn Hughes, Deputy Chair, Electoral Commission, gave evidence and then withdrew.

The Committee agreed the Electoral Commission’s draft corporate plan and estimate for 2014–15 without modification.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 4.15 pm.

SPEAKER’S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 29 APRIL 2014 at 6.05 PM

SPEAKER’S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (ex officio), in the Chair
Tracey Crouch MP
Brandon Lewis MP (ex officio)
Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. **Ballot paper description for Britain First**

Mr Speaker informed the Committee that that an independent report into the circumstances in which the ballot paper description of “Remember Lee Rigby” had been commissioned and would report as soon as possible. Nonetheless, Jenny Watson, the Chair of the Electoral Commission, wished to tender her resignation since the Electoral Commission had been responsible for this error.

The Committee agreed that the Chair of the Commission should not resign before the independent inquiry had reported, and it was known whether such a resignation was appropriate. It agreed that Mr Speaker should convey the Committee’s views to Jenny Watson.

[The Committee adjourned until Tuesday 6 May at 5.30 pm]

SPEAKER’S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 6 MAY 2014 AT 5.30 PM

SPEAKER’S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair
Tracey Crouch MP
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Brandon Lewis MP (*ex officio*)
Bridget Phillipson MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. **Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meetings on 2 and 29 April 2014**

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. **Nomination of Electoral Commissioner by the Leader of the Conservative Party**

The Chair informed the Committee that the Leader of the Conservative Party had rewritten to the Committee seeking the reappointment of Lord Horam as a nominated Electoral Commissioner and that he had written to the Chair of the Electoral Commission to ask for an assessment of Lord Horam’s performance.

3. **Consideration of the report from Elizabeth Butler**
The Committee considered the report and discussed it with Jenny Watson and Elizabeth Butler. The Committee agreed that there were no grounds for the Chair to resign and that it would require further reports on lessons learnt.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 6.08 pm]

SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2014 at 3.30 PM

SPEAKER'S STUDY

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (ex officio), in the Chair
Tracey Crouch MP
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Brandon Lewis MP (ex officio)
Naomi Long MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meetings on 6 May 2014

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. Electoral Commission update

The Committee received an update from Jenny Watson, Chair, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive and Bob Posner, Director of Party and Election Finance and Legal Counsel, Electoral Commission.

3. Consideration of the Electoral Commission’s Governance and amendments to the Deregulation Bill

The Committee agreed not to press for further legislative change.

4. Consideration of the appointment process for Electoral Commissioners

The Committee agreed that the reappointment process for Anna Carragher should start before the 2015 General Election.

The Committee agreed that recruitment process for a new Electoral Commissioner should start before the 2015 General Election.

5. Consideration of PHSO report on a complaint about the Electoral Commission

The Committee agreed that ombudsman’s report fell within the remit of the Public Administration Select Committee.
6. **Party registration update**

The Committee agreed that it should be kept informed of the reviews and monitoring of party registration and party descriptions.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 4.38 pm]

**SPEAKER’S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4 NOVEMBER 2014 at 3.30 PM**

**SPEAKER’S STUDY**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. **Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meetings on 2 September 2014**

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. **LGBCE update**

The Committee received an update from Max Caller, Chair, Alan Cogbill, Chief Executive and Jolyon Jackson, Chief Executive designate

The Committee noted the concern about the appointment of Commissioners.

The Committee noted the letters relating to the Accounting Officer and relocation.

3. **Appointment process for the Chair of LGBCE**

The Committee agreed to start the process for the appointment of chair of the LGBCE before the Election.

4. **Appointment process for Electoral Commissioners**

The Committee agreed the procedure for the appointment of Electoral Commissioners.

5. **Any other business**

The Committee agreed the proposed NAO value for money report.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 4.10 pm]
1. Consideration of formal and informal minutes of the meeting on 4 November 2014

The Minutes were agreed without modification.

2. Supplementary Estimate

The Committee agreed the draft Supplementary Estimates for 2014–15.

3. Timetable for Main Estimate 2015–16

The Committee agreed the proposed timetable for consideration of the Electoral Commission’s and LGBCE’s Main Estimates and corporate plans for 2015–16.

4. Reappointment of Anna Carragher

The Committee considered the correspondence relating to the reappointment of Anna Carragher as an Electoral Commissioner.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 3.10 pm]
The Committee agreed the draft Supplementary Estimates for 2014–15.

3. **Timetable for Main Estimate 2015–16**

The Committee agreed the proposed timetable for consideration of the Electoral Commission’s and LGBCE’s Main Estimates and corporate plans for 2015–16.

4. **Reappointment of Anna Carragher**

The Committee considered the correspondence relating to the reappointment of Anna Carragher as an Electoral Commissioner.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 3.10 pm]

---

**SPEAKER’S COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**FORMAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 4 MARCH 2015 at 3.00 PM**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 21**

Present:

Rt Hon John Bercow, Speaker (*ex officio*), in the Chair
Tracey Crouch MP
Rt. Hon. Sir Gerald Kaufman MP
Brandon Lewis MP (*ex officio*)
Bridget Phillipson MP
Mr Gary Streeter MP

1. **Consideration of the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.**

The Committee considered the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.

The Committee took evidence from Max Caller, Chair, and Jolyon Jackson, Chief Executive, LGBCE and from Carolyn Hughes, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Alex Robertson, Director of Communications, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, and Jenny Watson, Chair, Electoral Commission.

The Committee considered the Electoral Commission and LGBCE Main Estimates 2015/16 and Corporate Plans.

[The Committee adjourned until a time and date to be set by the Chair at 3.55 pm]