

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

2 September 2013

Amendments to Standing Order No. 10 (Sittings in Westminster Hall), Standing Order No. 22A (Written statements by ministers), Standing Order No. 121 (Nomination of Select Committees), Standing Order No. 144 (Finance and Services Committee), Standing Order No. 148A (Committee of Privileges), Standing Order No. 149 (Committee on Standards), Standing Order No. 150 (Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards), Standing Order No. 152D (House of Commons Members Estimate Committee)

New Standing Order No. 22C (Motions and amendments with a financial consequence for the House of Commons Administration Estimate)

*Reprinted from the
Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons
of 20 March, 23 April, 17 June and 4 July 2013
and the Standing Orders relating to Public Business
as ordered to be printed on 18 September 2012.*

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 10
(Sittings in Westminster Hall) is as follows.¹*

10.—(1) On days on which the House shall sit after an address has been agreed to in answer to Her Majesty's Speech there shall be a sitting in Westminster Hall—

Sittings in
Westminster
Hall.

5 (a) on Mondays beginning at half-past four o'clock and continuing for up to three hours, if the Backbench Business Committee has reported its determination that a sitting in Westminster Hall to consider an e-petition or e-petitions should take place on that day;

10 (b) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning at half-past nine o'clock, which shall be suspended from half-past eleven o'clock until half-past two o'clock and may then continue for up to a further two and a half hours; except that if the Tuesday or Wednesday immediately follows a periodic adjournment of the House of more than two days, the sitting shall be between half-past nine o'clock and two o'clock; and

15 (c) on Thursdays beginning at half-past one o'clock and continuing for up to three hours,

20 and in calculating the periods of two and a half or three hours no account shall be taken of any period during which the sitting may be suspended owing to a division being called in the House or a committee of the whole House.

(2) Any Member of the House may take part in a sitting in Westminster Hall.

25 (3) On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the business taken at any sitting in Westminster Hall shall be such as the Chairman of

1. Amended text shown in italics.

Ways and Means shall appoint and may include oral answers to questions under arrangements to be made by him.

(4) Subject to paragraph (15), the business taken at any Thursday sitting in Westminster Hall shall be such as the Backbench Business Committee shall determine. 30

(5) (a) The business taken at a Monday sitting in Westminster Hall shall be the e-petition or e-petitions which the Backbench Business Committee has determined should be debated, *and each such e-petition shall be debated on the motion, That this House has considered the e-petition relating to [subject of petition]*. 35

(b) Paragraph (12) of this Order shall not apply to proceedings under sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph; no dilatory motion may be made in relation to proceedings under that sub-paragraph except by a Minister of the Crown; and the question on any such dilatory motion shall be put forthwith. 40

(6) The Chairman of Ways and Means or a Deputy Chairman shall take the chair in Westminster Hall as Deputy Speaker; and the House may appoint not more than four other members of the Panel of Chairs to sit in Westminster Hall as Deputy Speaker. 45

(7) Any member of the Panel of Chairs may also take the chair at a sitting in Westminster Hall when so requested by the Chairman of Ways and Means, with the duties and powers conferred on additional Deputy Speakers; and Members so appointed shall be addressed by name. 50

(8) Any order made or resolution come to at a sitting in Westminster Hall (other than a resolution to adjourn) shall be 55

reported to the House by the Deputy Speaker and shall be deemed to be an order or resolution of the House.

60 (9) If a motion be made by a Minister of the Crown that an order of the day be proceeded with at a sitting in Westminster Hall, the question thereon shall be put forthwith, but such motion may be made only with the leave of the House and may not be made on a Friday.

65 (10) The quorum at a sitting in Westminster Hall shall be three.

70 (11) If at a sitting in Westminster Hall the opinion of the Deputy Speaker as to the decision of a question (other than a question for adjournment) is challenged, that question shall not be decided, and the Deputy Speaker shall report to the House accordingly; and any such question shall be put forthwith upon a motion being made in the House.

75 (12) If any business other than a motion for adjournment is under consideration at a sitting in Westminster Hall, and not fewer than six Members rise in their places and signify their objection to further proceedings, that business shall not be further proceeded with in Westminster Hall, and the Deputy Speaker shall report to the House accordingly, and any order under paragraph (9) above relating thereto shall be discharged.

80 (13) At the end of each sitting in Westminster Hall, unless a question for adjournment has previously been agreed to, the Deputy Speaker shall adjourn the sitting without putting any question; and proceedings on any business which has been entered upon but not disposed of shall lapse.

85 (14) The provisions of Standing Orders No. 29 (Powers of chair to propose question), No. 36 (Closure of debate), No. 37 (Majority for closure or for proposal of question), No. 38 (Procedure on divisions), No. 39 (Voting), No. 40 (Division

unnecessarily claimed), No. 41 (Quorum), No. 43 (Disorderly conduct), No. 44 (Order in debate), No. 45 (Members suspended, &c., to withdraw from precincts), No. 45A (Suspension of salary of Members suspended) and No. 163 (Motions to sit in private) shall not apply to sittings in Westminster Hall. 90

(15) In each Session, the Speaker shall appoint twenty Thursdays on which the business to be taken in Westminster Hall should be debates on select committee reports chosen by the Liaison Committee, but the Speaker may appoint fewer than twenty days with the agreement of the Liaison Committee. 95

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 22A
(Written statements) is as follows.¹*

Written
statements.

22A. A Minister of the Crown, being a Member of the House, *or other Member of the House to whom written questions may be addressed* may give notice of *an intention to make a statement* in written form on a specified day not later than five sitting days after the day on which notice was given: and such statements shall be printed in the Official Report. 5

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 121
(Nomination of select committees) is as follows.¹*

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 5

1. New text shown in italics.

notice to any Member whom he proposes to be discharged from the committee.

10 (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, the Committee of Privileges* and any Committee established under a temporary standing order), or for their discharge, unless—

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

20 (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 chair or another member of the committee; or

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

The text of the amended Standing Order No. 144 (Finance and Services Committee) is as follows.¹

144.—(1) There shall be a select committee, to be called the Finance and Services Committee, to consider expenditure on and the administration of services *provided from the Estimates for the House of Commons* and—

Finance and
Services
Committee.

1. New text shown in italics.

- (a) with the assistance of the *Management Board*, to prepare the Estimates for House of Commons: Administration for submission to the House of Commons Commission; 5
- (b) *with the assistance of the Accounting Officer, to prepare the Estimates for House of Commons: Members for submission to the Members Estimate Committee;* 10
- (c) to monitor the financial performance of the House Administration; and
- (d) to report to the House of Commons Commission *and the Members Estimate Committee or the Speaker on the financial and administrative implications of recommendations made to them by other Committees of the House.* 15
- (2) The committee shall consist of not more than eleven Members. 20
- (3) The committee shall be assisted by the Accounting Officer and by other Officers of the House appropriate to the matters under consideration.
- (4) The committee shall have power— 25
- (a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time; and
- (b) to communicate its evidence to the House of Commons Commission *or the Members Estimate Committee as appropriate.* 30

35 (5) Unless the House otherwise orders, all Members
nominated to the committee shall continue to be members of
the committee for the remainder of the Parliament.

*Standing Order No. 148A (Committee of Privileges)
has now taken effect, as follows.*

148A.—(1) There shall be a select committee, called the Committee of Privileges, to consider specific matters relating to privileges referred to it by the House. Committee of Privileges.

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

(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.

10 (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 sub-
committees any of the matters referred to the committee.

(5) The committee and any sub-committee shall have
power—

15 (a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit
notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to
adjourn from place to place and to report from time to
time;

20 (b) 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.

(6) The committee shall have power to order the attendance of any Member before the committee and to require that specific documents or records in the possession of a Member relating to its inquiries be laid before the committee or any sub-committee. 25

(7) The committee shall have power to refer to unreported evidence of the former Committees on Standards and Privileges and to any documents circulated to any such committee. 30

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

(9) The Attorney General, the Advocate General and the Solicitor General, being Members of the House, may attend the committee, may take part in deliberations, may receive committee papers and may give such other assistance to the committee as may be appropriate, but shall not vote or make any motion or move any amendment or be counted in the quorum. 35 40

*The new Standing Order No. 149
(Committee on Standards) has now taken effect,
as follows.*

Committee on
Standards.

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

(a) to oversee the work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; to examine the arrangements proposed by the Commissioner for the 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 5

- 10 registers; and to consider any specific complaints made
in relation to the registering or declaring of interests
referred to it by the Commissioner; and
- (b) to consider any matter relating to the conduct of
Members, including specific complaints in relation to
15 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
recommend any modifications to such code of conduct
as may from time to time appear to be necessary.
- 20 (2) The committee shall consist of ten Members, and at least
two and no more than three lay members.
- (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 appoint sub-
committees consisting of no more than seven Members, and at
least two lay members, and to refer to such sub-committees any
of the matters referred to the committee.
- (5) Lay members may take part in proceedings of the
30 committee and of any sub-committee to which they are
appointed and may ask questions of witnesses, but lay
members may not move any motion or any amendment to any
motion or draft report, and may not vote.
- (6) The quorum of the committee shall be five members who
35 are Members of this House, and the quorum of any sub-
committee shall be three members who are Members of this
House.
- (7) The committee and any sub-committee may not proceed
to business unless at least one lay member is present.

- (8) The committee and any sub-committee shall have power— 40
- (a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House and to adjourn from place to place;
 - (b) subject to the provisions of paragraph (9) of this order, to report from time to time; 45
 - (c) 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. 50
- (9) Any lay member present at a meeting at which a report has been agreed shall have the right to submit a paper setting out that lay member’s opinion on the report. The Committee shall not consider a motion that the Chair make a report to the House until it has ascertained whether any lay member present wishes to submit such a paper; and any such paper shall be appended to the report in question before it is made to the House. 55
- (10) 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. 60
- (11) The committee, or any sub-committee, shall have power to refer to unreported evidence of the former Committees on Standards and Privileges and to any documents circulated to any such committee. 65

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

75 (13) The Attorney General, the Advocate General and the 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.

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

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 compilation, maintenance and accessibility of those registers as are approved by the *Committee on Standards* or an appropriate sub-committee thereof;

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(b) to provide advice confidentially to Members and other persons or bodies subject to registration on matters relating to the registration of individual interests;

1. New text shown in italics.

- (c) to advise the *Committee on Standards*, 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; 15
- (d) to monitor the operation of such code and registers, and to make recommendations thereon to the *Committee on Standards* or an appropriate sub-committee thereof; and 20
- (e) to investigate, if he thinks fit, specific matters which have come to his attention relating to the conduct of Members and to report to the *Committee on Standards* or to an appropriate sub-committee thereof, unless the provisions of paragraph (4) apply. 25
- (3) In determining whether to investigate a specific matter relating to the conduct of a Member the Commissioner shall have regard to whether in his view there is sufficient evidence that the Code of Conduct or the rules relating to registration or declaration of interests may have been breached to justify taking the matter further. 30
- (4) 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

45 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.

50 (5) The Commissioner may at any time in the course of investigating a complaint, and if so requested by the *Committee on Standards* shall, appoint an Investigatory Panel to assist him in establishing the facts relevant to the investigation.

(6) An Investigatory Panel shall—

55 (a) consist of the Commissioner, who shall be Chair 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 shall not be a member of the *Committee on Standards*,
60 appointed by the Speaker; and

(b) meet in private.

(7) 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.

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

(9) 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.

(10) When the Panel has completed its proceedings—

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

(b) the legal assessor shall report to the *Committee on Standards* 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* 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

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

(12) The Commissioner shall have leave to publish from time to time—

(a) information and papers relating to—

(i) matters resolved in accordance with paragraph (4) of this order; and 90

(ii) complaints not upheld;

and

(b) information about complaints received and matters under investigation.

95 (13) 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*
 has reported to the House that it is satisfied that the
 Commissioner is unfit to hold his office or unable to carry out
 100 his functions; and any such report shall include a statement of
 the Committee's reasons for its conclusion.

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

152D.—(1) There shall be a committee of this House, called House of
 the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee. 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
 5 Commission pursuant to section 1 of the House of Commons
 (Administration) Act 1978; the Speaker shall be chair of the
 committee; and three shall be the quorum of the committee.

(3) The functions of the committee shall be—

10 (a) *to agree the Estimates for House of Commons:
 Members;*

(b) *to codify and keep under review the provisions of the
 resolutions of this House relating to expenditure
 charged to the Estimate for House of Commons:
 Members;*

15 (c) *to modify those provisions from time to time as the
 committee may think necessary or desirable in the*

1. New text shown in italics.

interests of clarity, consistency, accountability and effective administration, and conformity with current circumstances;

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

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

(4) Paragraph (3)(c) above does not empower the committee— 25

(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. 30

(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 new Standing Order No. 22C (Motions and amendments with a financial consequence for the House of Commons: Administration Estimate) is as follows.

- 22C.**—(1) Motions which would have a direct consequence of additional expenditure under the House of Commons: Administration Estimate estimated to be £50,000 or more shall not be considered by the House unless a memorandum setting out their expected financial consequences has been made available to the House.
- Motions and amendments with a financial consequence for the House of Commons: Administration Estimate.
- (2) The Accounting Officer shall make such a memorandum available to the House within a reasonable time of a motion to which this Order applies being tabled.
- 10 (3) (a) This Order shall also apply to amendments to motions which would have the expenditure consequences set out in paragraph (1); but the absence of such a memorandum shall not prevent the House from considering such an amendment.
- 15 (b) In his decision as to the selection of such an amendment, the Speaker shall, in addition to such other considerations as may, in his view, be relevant, take into account whether sufficient time has been available for the House to be provided with adequate information regarding the financial consequences.
- 20 (4) The Speaker shall decide whether a motion or amendment falls within the terms of this Order.