



HOUSE OF COMMONS

11 January 2017

Dear Colleague,

Commonwealth Newsletter, January 2017

My last newsletter covered a lot of ground, as the first half of 2016 was so eventful. Although a lot has happened in Parliament since then, nothing has quite had the impact of the Referendum campaign and its aftermath. Partly as a result, this edition of my biennial letter – now a New Year’s rather than a Christmas message – is rather shorter, but I hope none the worse for that. I start, perhaps inevitably, with Brexit, but as you will see, other issues have also been on our agenda. I am also aware that unusual circumstances have meant that in December we had the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference **here** in London, hosted by CPA International, and including a SOCATT meeting, on the wrong side of the Thames, but at which I was able to meet many of you and, with David Beamish, provide an oral update on Westminster developments : and this January the UK is hosting the Standing Committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth, starting as I write. So some of this may be familiar to some of you!

Brexit

In July, I noted that Brexit – the process by which the UK will leave the European Union – would have a range of impacts on the work of the House. Since the House returned after the summer, Brexit has indeed played a significant part in debates and question time, as well generating quite a few Ministerial statements. Our select (oversight) committees have also responded vigorously, with many inquiries being launched into the various potential impacts of Brexit on the subject areas they monitor. We have seen some tension between the stated intention of Ministers not to give a “running commentary” on their negotiations with the European Commission over Brexit and the desire of Members to hold the Government to account, and to question Ministers on the details of their plans for the future relationship between the UK and the EU. This was especially evident in the last sitting week before the Christmas recess, when on successive days the Prime Minister on Monday answered questions in the House for 90 minutes on EU matters and on Tuesday spent an hour before the Liaison Committee (which comprises all our select committee chairs) answering further questions on Brexit.

Since the referendum result, there has been a lot of discussion about the process by which the UK will leave, centred on the now-famous Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. We expect to hear later this month what the UK Supreme Court has decided in the case of *Miller and Dos Santos v the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union*. Over four days in December the full Court – with, exceptionally, all 11 Justices sitting – heard the Secretary of State’s

appeal from a decision of an exceptionally strong three-man Divisional Court, including the Lord Chief Justice and the Master of the Rolls. That court decided in October that the royal prerogative of making and unmaking treaties was not sufficient authority for the Secretary of State to give irreversible notice, under Article 50, of the United Kingdom's intention to leave the European Union. The technical legal issue is whether the Article 50 notice would or would not have the effect of abrogating rights currently enjoyed under statute. In political terms, it is now generally accepted across the House that the EU Referendum itself provides a sufficient mandate for leaving the EU.

If the decision of the Divisional Court is upheld by the UK Supreme Court, it is likely that the Government will swiftly bring forward a short Bill authorising Ministers to give notice under Article 50. The Government has indicated that it intends to give notice under Article 50 by the end of March 2017, thereby commencing formal negotiations which under the terms of the same treaty may not take more than two years, unless – improbably – there was unanimous agreement among our erstwhile European partners to extend them.

Looking further ahead, a so-called “Great Repeal Bill” is promised, to be announced in the Queen's Speech in May 2017, which will set out what will replace the huge volume of legislation in force in this country which is currently predicated on our membership of the EU.

Select Committee changes

The change of government following the resignation of the Prime Minister in the aftermath of the referendum outcome triggered a restructuring of several government departments, including the creation of new Departments for Exiting the European Union and for International Trade. As our select committees generally mirror the structure of government, we had to make corresponding changes to our committees. The new committee to monitor the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) was established with a much larger membership than usual – 21 rather than the standard 11 – so as to allow for the representation of a wider than usual range of political parties on the committee.

The creation of the new committees, and vacancies for three existing committee chairs due to the members accepting ministerial positions or resigning, required a substantial set of five by-elections. This was the largest number of chairs elected at one time other than following a general election. The most hotly contested chair was for Science and Technology with five candidates, although media and political interest focused especially on Home Affairs and Exiting the EU. Voting took place as usual in a committee room in the Palace, starting briskly at 10a.m. and continuing until the ballot closed at 1.30pm. Outside in the Committee Corridor candidates sat around anxiously ticking Members off lists to make sure their supporters were turning out to vote.

In total 546 Members voted – a turnout of 84%. Three teams of House staff counted the votes and Mr Speaker announced the results in the Chamber three hours after the ballot closed. As well as being a high-profile exercise in internal Parliamentary democracy, much enjoyed by Members and the media, the elections were a further example of the House service smoothly and without fuss discharging one more complex and important task. It is striking to me how procedures for such elections introduced in 2010 following the Wright Report, which were a

great novelty at the time, are now an accepted part of the House's way of doing business and taken more or less for granted.

Privilege: enforcement of the powers of the House

The extent to which the House can, in the modern era, impose penalties on third parties for breaches of privilege arose once again this year. The Privileges Committee reported in September on the case of several employees of News International who had been accused of misleading the Culture, Media and Sport Committee during successive inquiries (dating back to the last Parliament) into privacy and phone-hacking. The Privileges Committee concluded that some witnesses had intentionally misled the Committee and had therefore committed a contempt. The Committee recommended that the House "admonish" the witnesses concerned, although it did not recommend that the witnesses be summoned to the Bar of the House to be admonished in person by the Speaker. That last happened in the 1950s.

In October the House, after a short debate, agreed to admonish the witnesses concerned. During the debate, some Members raised the adequacy or otherwise of the House's penal powers, arguing that "admonishment" was insufficient. The House also agreed to refer the matter of the exercise and enforcement of the powers of the House in relation to select committees and contempts back to the Committee of Privileges. This arose also from recent cases where high-profile witnesses had threatened to refuse to attend a select committee. We shall see what conclusions the Committee reaches, and how the House reacts. I know that the Privileges Committee is already consulting colleagues overseas, especially among Commonwealth parliaments, to find out more about your practice in this difficult area.

Evidence to select committees, perjury and implied repeal of Article IX

An intriguing challenge to our thinking about the powers of select committees and the possibility of putting these on some statutory footing occurred in the late Autumn. A complaint, which had taken some time to wind its way through official channels, arrived with the Clerk of the Home Affairs Committee. It concerned oral evidence given to the Committee in September 2014. The complaint alleged that a witness before the committee had lied about a meeting with the complainant which had taken place some time before the evidence session. What was unusual is that this evidence had been given under oath.

Normally, deliberately misleading a committee of the House would be treated as a potential contempt, and any decision about whether the contempt was proved and whether it should be punished would be referred to the Committee of Privileges for investigation and report, followed by a decision of the House whether to accept the Committee's findings (as in the phone hacking case described above). But our Victorian predecessors were less cautious about keeping Parliament and the courts in watertight compartments, and the Parliamentary Witnesses Oaths Act 1871 provided for the Commons, or its committees, to administer oaths to witnesses. In its present form, it does not make any express provision for the penalty for giving untruthful evidence under oath, although when it was passed it contained the provision (in s.1): "Any person examined as aforesaid who wilfully gives false evidence shall be liable to the penalties of perjury".

This provision was repealed by the Perjury Act 1911, but as this was a consolidation Act and not intended to alter the law, it is logical to assume that it was repealed purely to avoid

duplication of legislative provisions, on the assumption that the offences under the 1911 Act would apply to false evidence on oath under the 1871 Act. This interpretation is supported by the current edition of Erskine May, which states that the giving of false evidence is punishable as perjury. However, there have been no prosecutions under either the 1871 Act or the 1911 Act relating to proceedings in Parliament, so this interpretation of the legislation has never been tested.

The Home Affairs Committee were therefore advised that the complaint amounted to an allegation that a criminal offence had occurred, and while they could choose to regard it as a matter falling within the exclusive cognisance of the House, the normal way for a committee to treat such an allegation would be to pass it to the police for investigation. The Committee decided to do this, and reported the decision in their formal minutes as well as informing the complainant.

The possibility therefore arises of a criminal charge relating to evidence given to a committee, where the claim under Article IX of the Bill of Rights that proceedings in Parliament “ought not to be impeached or questioned ... in any court or place out of Parliament” would have to be set aside for the purposes of mounting a prosecution relating to words spoken directly to a committee in formal proceedings. The grounds for allowing this, beside simple logic, would be that, in passing the 1871 Act, Parliament impliedly repealed Article IX insofar as it was necessary to give effect to the provisions of that Act. But that interpretation would be open to challenge.

The bar for proof of perjury is set high, so it is possible that this case will never reach the courts, and the uncertainty over the interaction of the 1871 Act and Article IX will remain unresolved. But even if it does not reach court, a small precedent will have been set by the Committee’s decision to refer the allegation to the police and prosecuting authorities.

The Petitions Committee - one year on

My December 2015 newsletter introduced the Petitions Committee, which was then in its infancy. One year on, e-petitions are well established and have an increasingly high profile. Most sitting Mondays see a petition debate in Westminster Hall (our parallel Chamber), and it is not uncommon to see a petition “tagged” as being relevant to a debate on the Order Paper.

The new e-petitions website has proved even more popular with the public than we had anticipated. In its first year of operation, more than 23,000 petitions were started on the site, of which 6,121 were accepted and opened for signature. Over 10 million unique e-mail addresses were used to sign petitions, and there were more than 20 million signatures on petitions.

This popularity has also contributed to a spectacular rise in the number of people who read Hansard and watch debates online. Readership of Hansard online has increased by 300%, and viewing figures for debates in Westminster Hall are up 900%. When a petition is debated, petitioners receive an email with links to the debate in Hansard and on Parliamentlive.tv. Petitions debates are now among the top ten most watched and read debates in this Parliament, routinely attracting tens of thousands of readers and viewers. A debate on a

petition signed by over 4.1 million people hoping for a second EU referendum was seen by over 475,000 readers and viewers.

The Committee has experimented with various ways of engaging the public with petition debates. This has included events for petitioners to share their views in person with Members before a debate, as well as digital engagement on the parliamentary website and elsewhere, including chats on Twitter and Facebook and discussions on existing online forums such as NetMums, Mumsnet (both of which are popular discussion sites for parents) and Money Saving Expert (a forum for people to share financial advice). The Committee has also used the traditional methods of evidence-gathering, and has taken formal oral evidence on four petitions so far. It has plans to promote the petitions system outside Westminster in 2017, with a focus on areas of the UK where levels of engagement with Parliament are low.

English Votes for English Laws - one year on

Also in my December 2015 newsletter, I mentioned the introduction, by way of lengthy and complex changes to Standing Orders, of “English Votes for English Laws” (known as EVEL). In that newsletter I described our initial experience with implementation of the new Standing Orders. We have now had over a year’s experience with the process by which the Speaker certifies Bills, or particular provisions within Bills, as applying only to England (or England and Wales) and within the legislative competence of one of the devolved legislatures. The process, while demanding in terms of the requirements for timely advice on technical issues from the Clerk of Legislation and from the Office of Speaker’s Counsel, has not proved politically controversial, even though the Speaker’s decisions on certification have sometimes been at variance with the conclusions reached by Government on the provisions in question.

We have also now become fairly used to the new Bill stages added as a result of the Standing Order changes, in the form of Legislative Grand Committees (a type of Committee of the whole House) for England and Wales and for England. We devised a new choreography for the Speaker’s certification, which takes place in a cramped meeting room, known as the “Reasons Room”, very close to the back of the Speaker’s Chair, and for the moves of the occupant of the Chair between the upper and lower Chair (or for a Deputy Speaker to take the lower Chair where the Speaker was presiding immediately before the new Committee stages). This is, I am glad to say, largely running smoothly – not a foregone conclusion when we set out.

Although the EVEL changes derived in part from a desire to establish a distinct “English voice” in the legislative process, debates at this stage, when not prohibited anyway by the operation of Programming, have been brief. The Official Opposition seems to have chosen to take no part in such proceedings. During the preparation of the Standing Orders, the Government conceded that the restriction on non-English or non-English and Welsh participation would relate to voting and moving motions, not speaking, and so we have seen a situation arise in which the most frequent speaker at the new stage has been the Scottish National Party spokesperson on House matters.

No divisions on the consent motions at Legislative Grand Committee stage have yet occurred, but we have growing experience of so-called “Double Majority” divisions. These are required

for secondary legislation subject to the EVEL Standing Orders and for certified Lords Amendments. In such divisions, the Tellers and then the Chair are required to announce results both for all Members voting in each Lobby and for the number of English/English and Welsh Members voting. The second totals are taken from the electronic tablets we now use to record names during divisions, although we also have a stand-by capacity to identify Members by territory when names are recorded on paper lists.

The Procedure Committee has just published a Report on the first year of operation of the new procedures which identified several areas of unnecessary complexity in the process. The Committee called the current EVEL Standing Orders “opaque”, and argued that they defy interpretation by Members: their grafting on to the existing body of Standing Orders was said to be alien to the House’s traditions and to run directly counter to efforts to make the House’s procedures more accessible. The Committee recommended that the Government should seek to simplify and improve the EVEL process, which does not currently command the respect and support of Members from all constituent nations of the UK that is needed if the process is to sustain the political stresses it may face in the future. The text of the report can be found at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmproced/189/18902.htm>. I was gratified by paragraph 74 of the report, which noted that House staff had addressed the requirements of the EVEL procedure “with great professionalism”, and recorded the Committee’s appreciation of the work of all staff of the House Service in facilitating the implementation the new procedure. Which goes to show what will I hope be well-known to all of you that, whatever the political controversy surrounding any initiative, Members recognise the value of having a professional and impartial parliamentary service to support them.

The Government itself is committed to review the procedures, and it remains to be seen whether that review will lead to a significant simplification of the procedures.

Deadlock on private Members’ bills

In my last letter I reported on the previous administration’s lukewarm response to the Procedure Committee proposals on reform of private Members’ bills. The Procedure Committee would like to see a shake-up of the current system of selecting bills for debate on our thirteen sitting Fridays, believing that bills which had been better prepared, and which had broader support across the House, would have a better chance of success than those which Members successful in the sessional ballot for priority bills are offered either by Government whips or by campaigning NGOs. The Committee would also like to see an end to the situation where Members can defeat bills simply by speaking at great length in a Second Reading debate to ensure that – unless a closure is secured – the House does not have the opportunity to come to a decision on the question proposed at Second Reading.

The Committee returned to the fray in October with a follow-up to its April 2016 report, pressing home the issues set out above and trusting that they would find more favour with a fresh administration. The Committee’s warning to the House, should the Government fail to act, was stark: “If the response to our recommendations is a further period of Government inaction, we believe the House should simply abandon the pretence that there are meaningful opportunities for non-government legislation to be made when that legislation does not have

the active support of the Government of the day, no matter what the merits are of the legislation proposed or the level of cross-party support it has.”

The new Leader of the House has now responded to the Committee’s report. While accepting a couple of minor recommendations on the process of printing bills, it still refuses to contemplate the main reforms proposed by the Committee, arguing that they restrict the rights of backbench Members to bring forward legislation. The positions of the two sides seem entrenched. You will recall that the Committee had hinted strongly at a limited future for unreformed sitting Fridays: it may develop this theme further when it reports in the New Year on the findings of its recent survey of Members’ views on the House’s sitting hours.

A new timetable for the Budget

There are usually two major fiscal events on the floor of the House each year: the Budget Statement in the Spring and the Autumn Statement (or, from 1997 to 2010, the Pre-Budget Report) in late November or early December. On 23 November 2016, in his first such statement as Chancellor of Exchequer (Finance Minister), Philip Hammond announced that it would also be the last Autumn Statement. From next year, the Budget will move to the Autumn, although in 2017 there will also be a Spring Budget as part of the transition. Mr Hammond was not the first Chancellor to announce such a change: there was an Autumn Budget between 1993 and 1997. There will also be a Spring Statement, reflecting the statutory requirement for two economic and fiscal forecasts each year, although the plan seems to be for this to be less of a substantive statement than the autumn fiscal events of previous years. It remains to be seen whether this provides more opportunities for the House to examine tax and wider fiscal proposals than the previous arrangements, and this is something the Procedure and Treasury Committees seem likely to look at. The continuing separation under procedures at Westminster between authorisation of tax measures (“Ways and Means”) and of detailed spending plans (“Supply”) seems unlikely to be affected.

Restoration and Renewal of the Palace of Westminster

I had nothing to report, in my last letter, on the future of the Palace – one of the biggest issues facing us. The Joint Committee on the Palace of Westminster, which was established in 2015 to make recommendations for a preferred option for carrying out Restoration and Renewal of the Palace of Westminster, has now published its Report (in September 2016). The Restoration and Renewal Programme will involve the complete refurbishment of the building’s ageing mechanical and electrical systems, extensive asbestos removal, the introduction of improved fire compartmentation, restoration of the heritage fabric of the building and improvements to disabled access.

The Joint Committee recommended that the Palace should be vacated completely to allow the work to be carried out as quickly as possible, in a single phase, and with minimal risk of disruption to the work of Parliament. This option also maximises the scope to make additional improvements to the building, which the Joint Committee suggested might focus on improving public access.

The plan is for a temporary Chamber for the House of Commons to be constructed in Richmond House, opposite the Cenotaph on Whitehall, which currently houses the Department of Health. The House is already in the process of acquiring this building as

temporary offices for Members during its Northern Estate Programme, which involves the refurbishment of both the Norman Shaw buildings and 1 Parliament Street. The proposal for the House of Lords is that it should move to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre opposite Westminster Abbey.

The Committee also recommended the establishment of an arm's-length Delivery Authority to carry out the work, overseen by a statutory Sponsor Board including representatives of both Houses and others. The full text of the report can be found at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201617/jtselect/jtpow/41/4102.htm>

The Programme, which will not begin until after the 2020 general election, is expected to take around six years. We are expecting the Government to table a Motion in both Houses early in 2017 to endorse the Joint Committee's proposals.

New constituency boundaries and reducing the number of Members

In my last Newsletter, I mentioned the re-drawing of constituency boundaries. The publication of the independent Boundary Commissions' proposals has set off the usual round of counter-suggestions. The Commissions are required to present proposals which will produce a smaller House of 600 Members, fifty fewer than at present, with all but a handful of island or highland constituencies required to have the same size electorate (within a band of 5% more or 5% fewer voters than the average constituency). The Commissions are required to publish their final recommendations and reports before 1 October 2018.

Meanwhile a private Member's bill to require the Boundary Commissions to start all over again with new terms of reference achieved a Second Reading in November, with strong backing from the Opposition. It remains to be seen how much farther that Bill will be able to progress, given the Government's preference for the existing terms of reference.

The House of Lords and secondary legislation

I raised this in my last letter as an issue that remained unresolved. The Government has now resolved it in the negative by deciding to drop plans to curtail the powers of the House of Lords over secondary legislation, reportedly because "the world has changed". Lord Strathclyde had been instructed in 2015 by the former Prime Minister, David Cameron, to look at curbing the powers of the second chamber, after the House of Lords had voted to block Regulations cutting tax credits. His proposals included the possibility of legislating to give the Commons power to over-ride any decision by the House of Lords to annul, or fail to approve, statutory instruments. The new Prime Minister has apparently decided that she has enough on her hands already without taking on the House of Lords over this issue. In a separate development, just before the Christmas recess the Lord Speaker announced the setting up of a new Lord Speaker's committee to examine methods to reduce the size of the House of Lords, from its current membership of over 800.

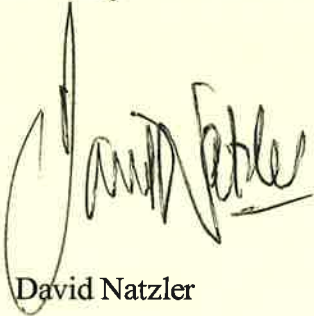
Finally, the Clerk of the House traditionally uses this last section of the newsletter to mention those colleagues retiring from the House service, as I did in July. On this occasion I have no further retirements to report. But it is my sad task to pass on to you that a dear colleague, Libby Hammond, died in a car accident in November. Libby will have been known to some of you through her work in the House of Commons Overseas Office, in particular as our

conference organiser. Libby worked closely with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch to organise the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2011, and was working for the House on two Commonwealth events at the time of her death: the annual meeting of the Society of Clerks at the Table of Commonwealth Parliaments (SOCATT) and the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth. Libby made friends wherever she went, and will be remembered by colleagues for her warmth, professionalism and commitment to serving Parliament.

It is the custom to record annually the inward visitors from Commonwealth countries who have participated in the Professional Development Programmes run by the Overseas Office and the 2016 list is attached. It is a pleasure to receive colleagues here for these programmes, not least because two-way and more – we learn from our visitors as much as they learn from us, and colleagues from different countries share experiences with each other. I hope that you will all consider making nominations (to me or to Matthew Hamlyn, who has recently taken over from Crispin Poyser as Clerk of the Overseas Office) for such attachments in the future.

As ever, I attach also the full list of current senior House appointments and senior DCCS appointments.

My very best wishes to you all for 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Natzler', written in a cursive style.

David Natzler

Clerk of the House and Head of the House of Commons Service

COMMONWEALTH ATTACHMENTS – 2016		
Country	Dates	Participants
Australia	24-28 October 2016	Mr Richard WILLIS , Assistant Clerk Procedure & Usher of the Black Rod, Department of Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria, Australia
Canada	24-28 October 2016	Ms Linda KOLODY , Deputy Clerk, Yukon Legislative Assembly, Canada
Kenya	29 February-10 March 2016	Mr Samuel KALAMA , First Clerk Assistant, Kenya National Assembly Mr Oscar NAMULANDA , Senior Clerk Assistant, Kenya National Assembly
Namibia	29 February-4 March 2016	Ms Anethe MTAMBANENGWE , Deputy Director: Information and Research Services, National Council, Parliament of Namibia
New Zealand	24-28 October 2016	Mr Rafael GONZALEZ-MONTERO , Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives, New Zealand
Pakistan	25-29 January 2016	Mr Muhammad AZAM , Section Officer (Legislation), Senate Major (R) Syed Hasnain HAIDER , Joint Secretary (Administration), Senate Mr Hammad Khan MARRI , Deputy Secretary (Committees), Senate Mr RAFIULLAH , Deputy Secretary (Questions), Senate
Scotland	3-6 May 2016	Neil STEWART , Senior Assistant Clerk, Legislation Team, The Scottish Parliament
OTHER ATTACHMENTS – 2016:		
Country	Dates	Participants
France	5-9 December 2016	Ms Pensée CHAPPOTTEAU , <i>administratrice-adjointe</i> , Deputy Legal Adviser at the European Affairs Department

		<p>Ms H�l�ne FERNANDEZ-LAC�TE, <i>r�dactrice des comptes rendus</i>, Verbatim Reporter</p> <p>Mr Pierre-Alain SARTHOU, <i>administrateur</i> at the Economic Affairs Committee</p>
Hong Kong	24-28 October 2016	<p>Ms Angel SHEK, Chief Council Secretary, Council Business Division 1, Legislative Council Secretariat, Hong Kong</p> <p>Mr Wing-kin YICK, Assistant Legal Adviser, Legal Service Division, Legislative Council Secretariat, Hong Kong</p>
Israel	3-6 May 2016	<p>Ariella AHARON, Acting Director and Head of Parliamentary Section, Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality, and Director of the Subcommittee on Human Trafficking and Prostitution, Knesset, Israel</p> <p>Liat KARPATI, Head of Parliamentary Section, Finance Committee, Knesset, Israel</p>
Japan	4-8 July 2016	<p>Mr Yasunori ITO, Coordination Division, Committees Department, House of Councillors</p> <p>(Note: from 01.07.16 moving to the Committee on Health, Welfare and Labour, Special Committee on Regional Issues and Consumer Affairs)</p> <p>Ms Eri KAWAKAMI, the Special Committee on North Korean Abductions and Other Issues, House of Representatives</p> <p>(Note: from 01.07.16 moving to the Committee on Economy, Trade and Industry)</p> <p>Ms Hirona MISHIMA, Personnel Division, General Affairs Department, House of Representatives</p> <p>(Note: from 01.07.16 moving to Member Services Division, General Affairs Department)</p>

		<p>Ms Ayaka MIYATAKE, Committee on Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Committees Department, House of Representatives</p> <p><i>(Note: from 01.07.16 moving to the Committee on Budget, Special Committee for Investigation of Nuclear Power Issues)</i></p>
Netherlands	3-6 May 2016	<p>Dr Mendeltje VAN KEULEN, Clerk of the European Affairs Committee, Tweede Kamer, Netherlands</p>
Sweden	3-6 May 2016	<p>Anders NORIN, Head of the Department for Parliamentary Record and Deputy Clerk, Riksdag, Sweden</p>

House of Commons Executive Committee as at 1 January 2017

Clerk of the House	David Natzler
Director General	Ian Ailles
Director of Finance	Myfanwy Barrett

Senior staff in the Chamber and Committee Services Team as at 1 January 2017

Clerk Assistant & Managing Director, Chamber and

Committee Team (Head of Chamber Business)	John Bengier
Clerk of Committees (Head of Committee Office)	Paul Evans
Clerk of Legislation	Liam Laurence Smyth
Clerk of the Journals	Mark Hutton
Principal Clerk of the Table Office	Philippa Helme
Principal Clerk of Select Committees	Crispin Poyser
Principal Clerk of Select Committees	Tom Goldsmith
Principal Clerk of Select Committees	Sarah Davies
Clerk of the Overseas Office	Matthew Hamlyn
Clerk of Bills	Colin Lee
Editor of Hansard	Alex Newton
Deliverer of the Vote	Catherine Fogarty
Serjeant at Arms	Kamal El-Hajji

