

SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE MOTION

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES

Memorandum by the Accounting Officer

1. A motion has been tabled by the Leader of the House to establish a Speaker's Conference to consider and make recommendations on the employment conditions of Members' staff. It will report a description of the principles underpinning its work, no later than 31 October 2022. The [full text](#) of the motion is published in Future Business B.
2. Under Standing Order No 22C, a motion which if agreed 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 its expected financial consequences has been made available to the House by the Accounting Officer. This memorandum therefore seeks to set out the expected financial consequences were the House to agree this motion.
3. Because the Speaker's Conference would be established at very short notice and would probably be required to begin its work rapidly to meet the timetable reflected in the motion, the staff team for the Speaker's Conference would largely be formed by re-assigning staff currently supporting Select Committees and undertaking other relevant work within the House Service. Staffing support for other work may be affected, and some recruitment or temporary promotions may be necessary for consequential vacancies. The full staff costs for the Conference based on a five-month period are set out below, although the additional costs are likely to be below this total. If the Speaker's Conference timeline extended there would be a proportionate increase in expenditure, including that for recruitment of additional staff.
4. It has been assumed that the staffing levels for the Speaker's Conference would need to be broadly comparable to those of a departmental select committee but with additional legal and HR input. This would suggest an estimated £171,550 in staff costs for a five-month period. Support from the media team to promote the work of the Speaker's Conference would cost an additional £8,000 for a five-month period. On average select committees spend approximately £6,500 on non-staff costs such as specialist advisers and publications in a five-month period. This estimate does not include travel costs.
5. Based on these broad assumptions the total anticipated cost of establishing the Speaker's Conference, with effect until 31st October 2022, is £186,050.

Dr John Benger
Accounting Officer
16 June 2022