

House of Commons
Select Committee on
Modernisation of the House of
Commons

**MINUTES OF
PROCEEDINGS**

Session 2001–02

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The Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House of Commons

The Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons is appointed to consider how the practices and procedures of the House should be modernised.

Membership

Rt Hon Robin Cook MP (*Labour, Livingston*) (Chairman)

Ann Coffey MP (*Labour, Stockport*)

Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons MP (*Labour, Rochdale*)

Barbara Follett MP (*Labour, Stevenage*)

Mr David Kidney MP (*Labour, Stafford*)

Rt Hon Greg Knight MP (*Conservative, East Yorkshire*)

Anne Picking MP (*Labour, East Lothian*)

Mr Peter Pike MP (*Labour, Burnley*)

Joan Ruddock MP (*Labour, Lewisham, Deptford*)

Mr Martin Salter MP (*Labour, Reading West*)

Mr Richard Shepherd MP (*Conservative, Aldridge-Brownhills*)

Mr Andrew Stunell OBE MP (*Liberal Democrat, Hazel Grove*)

Mr John Taylor MP (*Conservative, Solihull*)

Mr Paul Tyler CBE MP (*Liberal Democrat, North Cornwall*)

Sir Nicholas Winterton MP (*Conservative, Macclesfield*)

The following were also members of the Committee during this Parliament:

Mrs Angela Browning MP (*Conservative, Tiverton and Honiton*)

Helen Jackson MP (*Labour, Sheffield, Hillsborough*)

Julie Morgan MP (*Labour, Cardiff North*)

Powers

The powers of the Committee are set out in the temporary Standing Order made on 16 July 2001. This is available on the Internet at www.publications.parliament.uk/cm/cmvote/10716v01.htm.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/modhome.htm.

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to The Clerk of the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons, Committee Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general inquiries is: 020 7219 3318; the Committee's e-mail address is: modcom@parliament.uk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 18TH JULY 2001

Members present:

Mrs Angela Browning	Mr Peter Pike
Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mr Robin Cook	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Barbara Follett	Mr Andrew Stunell
Helen Jackson	Mr Paul Tyler
Julie Morgan	Mr Nicholas Winterton

Mr Robin Cook was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do inquire into Select Committees.—(*The Chairman.*)

[Adjourned till Wednesday 17th October at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

The Rt Hon Lord Sheldon, and Professor Lord Norton of Louth, were examined.

The Committee further deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24th October at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons
Barbara Follett
Mr David Kidney
Mr Greg Knight
Anne Picking
Mr Peter Pike

Joan Ruddock
Mr Martin Salter
Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

The Rt Hon Lord Newton of Braintree OBE, Mr Peter Riddell and Ms Anna Coote, of the Hansard Society Commission, were examined.

The Committee further deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 31st October at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey
Barbara Follett
Mr David Kidney
Mr Greg Knight
Anne Picking
Mr Peter Pike

Joan Ruddock
Mr Martin Salter
Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 14th November at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Joan Ruddock	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 28th November at half-past Nine o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Joan Ruddock	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5th December at half-past Nine o'clock.]

WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12th December at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do inquire into Modernisation of the House of Commons:
A Reform Programme.—(*The Chairman.*)

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19th December at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Paul Tyler
Joan Ruddock	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Mr Martin Salter	

The Committee deliberated.

The Rt Hon Alan Williams, a Member of the House, was examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9th January at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Peter Pike	Mr John Taylor

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16th January at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons
Mr David Kidney
Mr Greg Knight
Anne Picking
Mr Peter Pike
Joan Ruddock

Mr Martin Salter
Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr John Taylor
Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 23rd January at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons
Barbara Follett
Mr David Kidney
Mr Greg Knight
Anne Picking
Mr Peter Pike

Joan Ruddock
Mr Martin Salter
Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr John Taylor
Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 30th January at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 6th February at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Anne Picking	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Mr Peter Pike	

The Committee deliberated.

Draft report [Select Committees], proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

(The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report from the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons, Select Committees, (HC 224-I (2001-02), p.19.)

[Adjourned till Wednesday 13th February at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Andrew Stunell
Anne Picking	Mr John Taylor
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Paul Tyler
Joan Ruddock	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 27th February at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Joan Ruddock	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 6th March at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Paul Tyler
Joan Ruddock	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 13th March at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Barbara Follett	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Joan Ruddock	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 20th March at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Peter Pike
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Anne Picking	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10th April at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Paul Tyler
Joan Ruddock	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 17th April at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Joan Ruddock	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24th April at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 1st May at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Peter Pike
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Joan Ruddock
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Anne Picking	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 8th May at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Richard Shepherd
Barbara Follett	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Joan Ruddock	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 15th May at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Paul Tyler
Anne Picking	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 22nd May at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Mr David Kidney	Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Peter Pike	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Joan Ruddock	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12th June at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Barbara Follett	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19th June at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Martin Salter
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Peter Pike	Mr Paul Tyler
Joan Ruddock	Sir Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3rd July at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Barbara Follett	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	Sir Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10th July at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr David Kidney	Mr John Taylor
Mr Greg Knight	Mr Paul Tyler
Anne Picking	Sir Nicholas Winterton
Mr Peter Pike	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16th July at Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 16TH JULY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Mr Peter Pike
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Barbara Follett	Mr Paul Tyler
Anne Picking	Sir Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till to-morrow at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Barbara Follett	Mr Paul Tyler
Anne Picking	Sir Nicholas Winterton
Mr Peter Pike	

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24th July at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey	Joan Ruddock
Mrs Lorna Fitzsimons	Mr Martin Salter
Mr David Kidney	Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr Greg Knight	Mr John Taylor
Anne Picking	Mr Paul Tyler
Mr Peter Pike	

The Committee deliberated.

Draft report [Modernisation of the House of Commons: A Reform Programme], proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

(The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report from the Select Committee on Modernisation of the House of Commons, Modernisation of the House of Commons: A Reform Programme, (HC 1168-I (2001–02), p.25.)

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16th October at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey
Barbara Follett
Mr David Kidney
Mr Greg Knight
Anne Picking
Joan Ruddock

Mr Martin Salter
Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr John Taylor
Mr Paul Tyler
Sir Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 23rd October at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey
Barbara Follett
Mr David Kidney
Mr Peter Pike
Joan Ruddock
Mr Martin Salter

Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr John Taylor
Mr Paul Tyler
Sir Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 30th October at half-past Nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2002

Members present:

Mr Robin Cook, in the Chair

Ann Coffey
Barbara Follett
Mr David Kidney
Mr Greg Knight
Mr Peter Pike
Joan Ruddock

Mr Martin Salter
Mr Richard Shepherd
Mr Andrew Stunell
Mr John Taylor
Mr Paul Tyler
Sir Nicholas Winterton

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 27th November at half-past Nine o'clock.]

