

House of Commons  
Procedure Committee

**MINUTES OF  
PROCEEDINGS**

Session 2001–02

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## The Procedure Committee

The Procedure Committee is appointed to consider the practice and procedure of the House of Commons in the conduct of public business and to make recommendations. Its constitution and powers are set out in House of Commons Standing Order No 147.

The Committee has a maximum of seventeen members, of whom the quorum for any formal proceedings is five. The members of the Committee are appointed by the House and unless discharged remain on the Committee until the next dissolution of Parliament. The present membership of the Committee is as follows:<sup>1</sup>

Sir Nicholas Winterton MP (*Conservative, Macclesfield*)  
 Mr John Burnett MP (*Liberal Democrat, Torridge and West Devon*)<sup>2</sup>  
 David Hamilton MP (*Labour, Midlothian*)  
 Mr Eric Illsley MP (*Labour, Barnsley Central*)  
 Huw Irranca-Davies MP (*Labour, Ogmores*)<sup>3</sup>  
 Eric Joyce MP (*Labour, Falkirk West*)  
 Mr Iain Luke MP (*Labour, Dundee East*)<sup>4</sup>  
 Rosemary McKenna MP (*Labour, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth*)  
 Ms Meg Munn MP (*Labour, Sheffield, Heeley*)  
 Sir Robert Smith MP (*Liberal Democrat, West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine*)  
 Mr Desmond Swayne MP (*Conservative, New Forest West*)<sup>5</sup>  
 David Wright MP (*Labour, Telford*)

On 19 July 2001, the Committee elected *Mr (now Sir) Nicholas Winterton* as its Chairman.

The Committee has the power to require the submission of written evidence and documents, to examine witnesses, and to make Reports to the House.

The Committee may meet at any time (except when Parliament is prorogued or dissolved) and at any place.

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/prochome.htm](http://www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/prochome.htm). A list of Reports of the Committee in the 2001 Parliament is shown on the inside cover of this volume.

All correspondence should be addressed to The Clerk of the Procedure Committee, Journal Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general inquiries is: (020) 7219 3318; the Committee's e-mail address is: [proccom@parliament.uk](mailto:proccom@parliament.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> Mr John Lyons MP (*Labour, Strathkelvin and Bearsden*) was appointed on 16 July 2001 and discharged on 19 July 2001. Mr David Drew MP (*Labour/Co-operative, Stroud*) was appointed on 16 July 2001 and discharged on 27 November 2001. Mr David Rendel MP (*Liberal Democrat, Newbury*) was appointed on 16 July 2001 and discharged on 26 February 2002. Alistair Burt MP (*Conservative, North East Bedfordshire*) was appointed on 16 July 2001 and discharged on 4 March 2002. Ian Lucas MP (*Labour, Wrexham*) was appointed on 16 July 2001 and discharged on 24 June 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 26 February 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Appointed 24 June 2002.

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 27 November 2001.

<sup>5</sup> Appointed 4 March 2002.

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 19TH JULY 2001

Members present:

Mr David Drew	Ms Meg Munn
David Hamilton	Mr David Rendel
Mr Eric Illsley	Sir Robert Smith
Eric Joyce	Mr Nicholas Winterton
Ian Lucas	David Wright
Rosemary McKenna	

Mr Nicholas Winterton was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated.

*Ordered*, That Strangers be admitted during the examination of witnesses unless the Committee otherwise orders.—(*The Chairman.*)

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23rd October at half-past Four o'clock.]

TUESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr David Drew	Rosemary McKenna
David Hamilton	Ms Meg Munn
Eric Joyce	Mr David Rendel
Ian Lucas	

The Committee deliberated.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do inquire into Parliamentary Questions and Electronic Tabling of Questions and Motions.—(*The Chairman.*)

[Adjourned till Tuesday 6th November at half-past Four o'clock.]

TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

David Hamilton	Mr David Rendel
Ian Lucas	David Wright
Ms Meg Munn	

The Committee deliberated.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman have the power to communicate evidence taken in the course of the inquiry into Parliamentary Questions and Electronic Tabling of Questions and Motions to the Information Committee and the Select Committee on Public Administration as he thinks fit.—(*The Chairman.*)

*Resolved*, That the Committee do inquire into the Election of Deputy Speakers.—(*The Chairman.*)

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

WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2001

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr Eric Illsley  
Eric Joyce  
Ms Meg Munn  
Mr Iain Luke

Rosemary McKenna  
Sir Robert Smith  
David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

*Resolved*, That the Chairman do request that the Leader of the House table an Amendment to Standing Order No. 147 to confer on the Committee the power to appoint specialist advisers.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Committee further deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15th January at Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

David Hamilton  
Eric Joyce

Rosemary McKenna  
Sir Robert Smith

The Committee deliberated.

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

WEDNESDAY 30TH JANUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

David Hamilton  
Eric Joyce  
Mr Iain Luke  
Ms Meg Munn

Rosemary McKenna  
Sir Robert Smith  
David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do inquire into Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures.—(*The Chairman.*)

*Resolved*, That Professor R. H. Hynds be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters relating to its inquiry into Parliamentary Questions and Electronic Tabling of Questions and Motions.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 12th February at half-past Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

David Hamilton  
Eric Joyce  
Ian Lucas  
Mr Iain Luke

Ms Meg Munn  
Mr David Rendel  
David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report [Making of Remedial Orders: Recommendations by the Joint Committee on Human Rights], 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 Procedure Committee, Making of Remedial Orders: Recommendations by the Joint Committee on Human Rights, HC (2001–02) 626, p 10.)*

Parliamentary Questions: Mr Graham Allen, Norman Baker, Andrew Bennett, Mr Tim Boswell and Ms Oona King, Members of the House, were examined.

[Adjourned until Tuesday 5th March at half-past Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett	Ms Meg Munn
Mr Eric Illsley	Sir Robert Smith
Ian Lucas	Mr Desmond Swayne
Rosemary McKenna	David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

*Resolved*, That in a future Session the Committee do inquire into the Procedural Consequences of Devolution and the Rules governing the Use of the Welsh Language in Parliamentary Proceedings.—(*The Chairman.*)

Parliamentary Questions: Mr Tam Dalyell, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Mr Mark Prisk, Mr Lawrie Quinn and Mr John Taylor, Members of the House, were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19th March at a quarter to Five o'clock.

TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

David Hamilton	Sir Robert Smith
Eric Joyce	Mr Desmond Swayne
Rosemary McKenna	

The Committee deliberated.

Parliamentary Questions: Mr Jonathan Baume, General Secretary and Mr Lorimer Mackenzie, Vice-President, FDA, and Mr Charles Cochrane, Director of Policy, Information and Research, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16th April at a quarter past Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 16th APRIL 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett	Ms Meg Munn
Eric Illsley	Mr Desmond Swayne
Mr Iain Luke	David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report [Appointment of Deputy Speakers], 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 Procedure Committee, Appointment of Deputy Speakers, HC (2001–02) 770, p 28.)*

*Resolved*, That the Committee do visit the Scottish Parliament in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Parliamentary Questions and Electronic Tabling of Questions and Motions.—*(The Chairman.)*

*Ordered*, That the transcripts of evidence to be taken before the Committee on 24th April and 7th May be published on the Internet in their uncorrected form.—*(The Chairman.)*

Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures: Professor the Lord Norton of Louth, a Member of the House of Lords, was examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24th April at a quarter past Four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
Mr Iain Luke  
Rosemary McKenna

Ms Meg Munn  
Sir Robert Smith  
Mr Desmond Swayne

The Committee deliberated.

Parliamentary Questions: Rt Hon Robin Cook, a Member of the House, Leader of the House and President of the Council, was examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 7th May at half-past Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 7th MAY 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
David Hamilton  
Mr Iain Luke

Rosemary McKenna  
Ms Meg Munn  
Mr Desmond Swayne

The Committee deliberated.

Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures: The Lord Falconer of Thoroton QC, a Member of the House of Lords, Minister for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, was examined.

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

TUESDAY 15th MAY 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
Mr Eric Illsley  
Eric Joyce

Rosemary McKenna  
Mr Desmond Swayne  
David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 21st May at half-past Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 21ST MAY 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
David Hamilton  
Eric Joyce

Ms Meg Munn  
Mr Desmond Swayne

The Committee deliberated.

Parliamentary Questions: Ms Helen Irwin, Principal Clerk, Mr Roger Phillips, a Deputy Principal Clerk, and Ms Janet Hunter, a Chief Office Clerk, Table Office, were examined.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 12th June at a quarter to Four o'clock.

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2002

Members present:

Mr Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
David Hamilton  
Mr Eric Illsley  
Eric Joyce

Mr Iain Luke  
Rosemary McKenna  
Sir Robert Smith  
Mr Desmond Swayne

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned until Wednesday 19th June at Four o'clock.



WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE 2002

Members present:

Sir Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
Mr Eric Illsley  
Mr Iain Luke

Ms Meg Munn  
Mr Desmond Swayne  
David Wright

*Resolved*, That the Committee do congratulate the Chairman on the knighthood which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer upon him.—(Mr John Burnett.)

The Committee deliberated.

Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures: Rt Hon Sir Iain Glidewell and Mr Roy Vandermeer QC were examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday 20th June at half-past One o'clock.

THURSDAY 20TH JUNE 2002

Members present:

Sir Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
Mr Eric Illsley  
Eric Joyce

Mr Iain Luke  
Mr Desmond Swayne  
David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report [Parliamentary Questions], proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*(The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report from the Procedure Committee, Parliamentary Questions, HC (2000–01) 622, pp 49–56.)*

[Adjourned till Tuesday 2nd July at half-past Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 2ND JULY 2002

Members present:

Sir Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
Rosemary McKenna  
Sir Robert Smith

Mr Desmond Swayne  
David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report [Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures], proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*(The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Special Report from the Procedure Committee, Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures, HC (2000–01), p 5.)*

Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures: Mr Neil Sinden, Assistant Director (Planning), Council for the Protection of Rural England, Mr Tony Burton, Director of Policy and Strategy, The National Trust, Dr Hugh Ellis, Planning Adviser, Friends of the Earth, and Mr Mark Sullivan, Transport 2000, were examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday 18th July at half-past Ten o'clock.

THURSDAY 18TH JULY 2002

Members present:

Sir Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
Huw Irranca-Davies  
Eric Joyce  
Mr Iain Luke

Rosemary McKenna  
Sir Robert Smith  
Mr Desmond Swayne

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report [Government Response to the Second Report of Session 2001–02: Appointment of Deputy Speakers], proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the draft Report be read a second time.

Paragraph agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do not proceed with its inquiry into Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Committee further deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22nd October at Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2002

Members present:

Sir Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
Huw Irranca-Davies  
Mr Eric Illsley

Mr Iain Luke  
Sir Robert Smith  
David Wright

The Committee deliberated.

*Resolved*, That the Chairman table such Amendments to the Motions on Parliamentary Questions to be proposed by the Leader of the House on Tuesday 29th October as may be necessary to give effect to the Committee's recommendations on topical questioning of Ministers, as set out in its Third Report.—(*The Chairman.*)

*Resolved*, That the Committee do request that the Leader of the House table an Amendment to Standing Order No. 147 to confer on the Committee like powers in respect of private business as it presently has in respect of public business.—(*The Chairman.*)

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5th November at half-past Four o'clock.

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2002

Members present:

Sir Nicholas Winterton, in the Chair

Mr John Burnett  
David Hamilton  
Mr Iain Luke

Rosemary McKenna  
Sir Robert Smith

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3rd December at Four o'clock.

# LIST OF REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE IN THE 2001 PARLIAMENT

## SESSION 2001–02

**First Report:** Making Remedial Orders: Recommendations by the Joint Committee on Human Rights (HC 626)

Published 14 February 2002

**Second Report:** Appointment of Deputy Speakers (HC 770)

Published 22 April 2002

**Third Report:** Parliamentary Questions (HC 622)

Published 26 June 2002

**First Special Report:** Major Infrastructure Projects: Proposed New Parliamentary Procedures (HC 1031)

Published 3 July 2002

**Second Special Report:** Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2001–02: Appointment of Deputy Speakers (HC 1121)

Published 19 July 2002

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