



House of Commons
Trade and Industry Committee

Work of the Committee in 2005-06

Second Report of Session 2006–07



House of Commons
Trade and Industry Committee

Work of the Committee in 2005-06

Second Report of Session 2006–07

*Report, together with formal minutes, oral and
written evidence*

*Ordered by The House of Commons
to be printed 20 February 2007*

HC 332

Published on 28 February 2006
by authority of the House of Commons
London: The Stationery Office Limited
£0.00

The Trade and Industry Committee

The Trade and Industry Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Current membership

Peter Luff MP (*Conservative, Mid Worcestershire*) (Chairman)
Roger Berry MP (*Labour, Kingswood*)
Mr Brian Binley MP (*Conservative, Northampton South*)
Mr Peter Bone MP (*Conservative, Wellingborough*)
Mr Michael Clapham MP (*Labour, Barnsley West and Penistone*)
Mrs Claire Curtis-Thomas MP (*Labour, Crosby*)
Mr Lindsay Hoyle MP (*Labour, Chorley*)
Mr Mark Hunter MP (*Liberal Democrat, Cheadle*)
Miss Julie Kirkbride MP (*Conservative, Bromsgrove*)
Judy Mallaber MP (*Labour, Amber Valley*)
Rob Marris MP (*Labour, Wolverhampton South West*)
Anne Moffat MP (*Labour, East Lothian*)
Mr Mike Weir MP (*Scottish National Party, Angus*)
Mr Anthony Wright MP (*Labour, Great Yarmouth*)

Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmstords.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 http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/trade_and_industry.cfm.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Elizabeth Flood (Clerk), David Slater (Second Clerk), Robert Cope (Committee Specialist), Ian Townsend (Inquiry Manager), Clare Genis (Committee Assistant), Jim Hudson (Senior Office Clerk) and Joanne Larcombe (Secretary).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerks of the Trade and Industry Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5777; the Committee's email address is tradeindcom@parliament.uk.

Contents

Report	<i>Page</i>
1 Introduction	3
2 Our inquiries in 2005–06	6
The core tasks of a Select Committee	6
The development and implementation of policy and legislation	8
Examining the administration of the Department	10
Other Committee activities	12
Visits	12
The response from the DTI	13
Annex 1: Departmental Select Committee Objectives and Tasks	14
Objective A: To examine and comment on the policy of the Department	14
Objective B: To examine the expenditure of the Department.	14
Objective C: To examine the administration of the Department	14
Objective D: To assist the House in debate and discussion.	14
Annex 2: Reports published in 2005–06	15
Formal minutes	17

1 Introduction

1. The Trade and Industry Committee is appointed to examine on behalf of the House of Commons the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and any associated public bodies. We carry out our work by taking evidence from relevant interests. This may be oral, or written, or both. The Government has to reply to any Report we make to the House within two months of its publication. The Committee, along with the Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees, is also a participant in the ‘Quadripartite Committee’ which scrutinises the Government’s strategic export control regime.

2. As a result of an initiative by the Liaison Committee of the House of Commons, our predecessors produced annual reports on the work of the Trade and Industry Committee during the last Parliament. Because of the general election in 2005, we did not issue a similar Report at this time last year. As a result, this Report covers a longer period than usual—from the nomination of the members of the Committee in July 2005 till the end of December 2006.

3. We undertook fourteen inquiries during the period, excluding our work as part of the Quadripartite Committee which is described below.¹ We published eight Reports, including three in which we revisited issues on which our predecessors had reported. We completed another four inquiries: into local energy generation—on which we reported in January 2007;² and into the reasons for success and failure in the UK car industry, UK dependence on coal and gas imports, and the work of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service—on which Reports will be published as early as possible in 2007. In addition, we have held ‘one-off’ evidence sessions—on the Annual Plan of Ofcom (the telecommunications regulator), which we conducted concurrently with the Culture, Media and Sport Committee in May 2006; and, in October 2005 and again in October 2006, on the Departmental Annual Reports of the DTI for 2005 and 2006 respectively. We will continue to take evidence for a further seven inquiries early in 2007. A summary of the topics we have covered is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Subjects covered by the Trade and Industry Committee in 2005-06

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Evidence Sessions in 2005-06</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
DTI Departmental Annual Report 2005	1	Evidence, October 2005
Security of gas supply	1	Report, December 2005
Royal Mail after Liberalisation	3	Report, December 2005
European Commission’s negotiating strategy for the World Trade Organisation Hong Kong Ministerial Conference	2	Evidence, November and December 2005

1 In paragraphs 23–24

2 *Local energy—turning consumers into producers*, First Report of Session 2006–07, HC 257

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Evidence Sessions in 2005-06</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
Work of Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)	1	Report to be published
Trade and Investment Opportunities with India	6	Report, June 2006
Ofcom Annual Plan ³	1	Evidence, May 2006
New Nuclear? Examining the Issues	6	Report, July 2006
Export Credit Guarantee Department's bribery rules	2	Report, July 2006
Export Credit Guarantee Department's bribery rules: follow up	0	Report, October 2006
Work of the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency and United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority	1	Report, August 2006
Royal Mail Group	1	Report, October 2006
UK dependence on gas and coal imports	8	Report to be published
Local Energy: turning consumers into producers	3	Report, January 2007
Reasons for Success and Failure in the UK Automotive Industry	3	Report to be published
DTI Annual Report 2006	1	Evidence, October 2006
Trade and Investment Opportunities with Mercosur	1	Evidence, November 2006
Manufacturing industry in the UK: skills shortages	1	Evidence, December 2006
Manufacturing industry in the UK: Marketing UK plc—the Work of UKTI	1	Evidence, December 2006
Manufacturing industry in the UK: Public procurement	1	Evidence, December 2006
Implementation of the Report of the Women and Work Commission	0	Sub-Committee established. Oral evidence to be taken in 2007
Recent developments with Airbus	0	Oral evidence to be taken in 2007
Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny ⁴	5	Report, August 2006

3 Inquiry undertaken concurrently with the Culture, Media and Sport Committee

4 Inquiry undertaken concurrently with the Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees

4. We could not have undertaken such a work programme without the contributions and co-operation of witnesses, Ministers, and officials in the DTI and other government departments and agencies in the UK, and in Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts in the countries which we visited in the course of our inquiries. We would like to thank all those who have helped us in our work .

2 Our inquiries in 2005–06

5. The composition of our work programme reflected in large part our intention to examine as many policy areas within the remit of the Department of Trade and Industry as possible in the course of this Parliament, to explore aspects of policy which were of general concern and to revisit areas of departmental activity which had not been reviewed recently. Our programme was developed against the background of the Liaison Committee's guidance on the core tasks that should be undertaken by a Select Committee.

The core tasks of a Select Committee

6. On 14 May 2002 the House agreed a resolution which, among other things, invited the Liaison Committee to establish common objectives for Select Committees.⁵ That Committee drew up an illustrative template of objectives and tasks, and requested all Select Committees to publish an annual report on their work which made clear how they had addressed the common objectives, or 'core tasks'. The full list of Objectives and Tasks for Select Committees is attached at Annex 1. The tasks to which we have given priority during 2005–06 involve the examination of Government policy proposals, areas of emerging policy or policy deficiencies, and Departmental expenditure, and the scrutiny of the work of Departmental executive agencies, regulators and other public bodies. Table 2 below summarises how our inquiries relate to the objectives and tasks identified by the Liaison Committee.

Table 2: 2005-06 inquiries set against Liaison Committee criteria

<i>Subject</i>	Departmental policy	Examination of deficiencies	Documents and decisions	Expenditure	PSAs	Regulators and Agencies	Legislation and initiatives
DTI Departmental Annual Report 2005			✓	✓	✓		
Security of gas supply		✓					
Royal Mail after Liberalisation		✓		✓		✓	✓
European Commission's negotiating strategy for the World Trade Organisation Hong Kong Ministerial Conference	✓				✓		
Work of Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)	✓					✓	
Trade and Investment Opportunities with India		✓			✓	✓	✓

5 See *Votes and Proceedings*, 14 May 2002

<i>Subject</i>	Departmental policy	Examination of deficiencies	Documents and decisions	Expenditure	PSAs	Regulators and Agencies	Legislation and initiatives
Ofcom Annual Plan			✓	✓		✓	✓
New Nuclear? Examining the Issues	✓	✓					✓
Export Credit Guarantee Department's bribery rules		✓	✓			✓	✓
Work of the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency and United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Royal Mail Group		✓		✓		✓	✓
UK dependence on gas and coal imports	✓				✓		
Local Energy: turning consumers into producers	✓	✓					✓
Reasons for Success and Failure in the UK Automotive Industry		✓					✓
DTI Annual Report 2006			✓	✓	✓		
Trade and Investment Opportunities with Mercosur		✓				✓	
Manufacturing industry in the UK: skills shortages		✓			✓	✓	✓
Manufacturing industry in the UK: Marketing UK plc—the Work of UKTI	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Manufacturing industry in the UK: Public procurement		✓					
Implementation of the Report of the Women and Work Commission	✓						✓
Recent developments with Airbus		✓					✓
Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny ⁶		✓	✓			✓	

6 Inquiry undertaken concurrently with the Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees

The development and implementation of policy and legislation

Energy-related inquiries

7. Energy policy was one of the main concerns of the Government in 2006, with a particular focus on how to reconcile the sometimes conflicting requirements of security of supply, environmental concerns (particularly the problem of climate change) and minimising energy costs in order to maintain the competitiveness of business and tackle fuel poverty amongst individuals. We have made contributions to the Government's development of its policy in all these areas, building on the inquiries of our predecessors.

8. Our first Report of this Parliament, on Security of Gas Supply,⁷ followed up our predecessors' investigation into gas and electricity price rises in the winter of 2004–05⁸ and came to the same conclusion, that gas supplies would remain tight through the winter of 2005–06 and perhaps also that of 2006–07 until new import infrastructure came into operation, with the result that retail gas and electricity prices were likely to remain high. This and our predecessors' Report were tagged to the half-day Adjournment Debate on Security of Energy Supply on 12 January 2006. We received the Government's response to our Report on the day of this debate and co-operated with the Government in making the response available to the House for the debate.

9. We have continued our work in this area by looking specifically at UK dependence on gas and coal imports in the context of the Government's Energy Review, in the course of which we have taken evidence from a range of public bodies, trade organisations, academics and individual companies, including Gazprom.

10. Also in the context of the Energy Review, we have inquired into the issues surrounding the building of new nuclear generating stations, and whether locally generated energy could meet a significant proportion of the UK's electricity and space or water heating needs. We were able to bring forward consideration and publication of our Report on *New Nuclear? Examining the issues*⁹ so that it was available on the day before the Government's Statement to the House on the outcome of its Energy Review consultation. Our Report on local energy generation was published on 30 January 2007.

Future of manufacturing industry

11. The other major area of our work during this Parliament will be a series of inquiries on the broad theme of 'The future of manufacturing industry in the UK'. We launched the first three such inquiries in July 2006: *Marketing UK plc—The work of UK Trade and Investment* in supporting exporters and encouraging inward investment (which is described in more detail in paragraph 15 below); *Public procurement—The scope for government support for UK industry*; and *Skills shortages—The extent to which such shortages are hindering the development of manufacturing industry, and the role of*

7 *Security of Gas Supply*, First Report of Session 2005–06, HC 632-I

8 Trade and Industry Committee, *Fuel Prices*, Twelfth Report of Session 2004–05, HC 279

9 Fourth Report of Session 2005–06, HC 1122

Government and employers in providing training. Our programme of oral evidence on all three of these subjects, which began in December, will continue in 2007.

International trade policy

12. We have continued to take an interest in the potential development of opportunities for international trade. We obtained written and oral evidence about the European Commission's negotiating strategy for the World Trade Organisation Hong Kong Ministerial Conference. We have maintained a watching brief on developments in the Doha Round of negotiations after that Ministerial Conference.

13. In 2006 we reviewed the prospects for the development of trade and investment between the UK and India, concluding that there is great potential for increasing trade with that country, although UK companies are not taking advantage of the opportunities to the same degree as the UK's competitors. We commended UKTI's 'in-country' team for the support given to businesses to overcome the particular difficulties of the Indian market.

14. We are continuing an inquiry into trade between the UK and Mercosur, covering not only prospects for developing trade with individual countries in South America, but also the possibility of establishing an EU-Mercosur trade agreement, and the role of the UK Government in assisting exporters to the region. We will publish our Report after Easter.

15. As mentioned above, we have also started an inquiry into the role of UK Trade and Investment in promoting trade opportunities for and inward investment in UK manufacturing industry. We chose to look at UKTI at this stage in part because of our findings about its work in relation to trade with India¹⁰ and partly because UKTI launched a new Strategy in July 2006. In particular, we are examining UKTI's Strategy to see whether it will assist in achieving the Public Service Agreement target of delivering "a measurable improvement in the business performance of UK Trade & Investment's international trade customers" and maintaining the UK "as the prime location in the EU for foreign direct investment".

Postal services

16. The standard of postal services and the future of the Post Office network have been matters of concern for several years, and our predecessors did a lot of work in this area.¹¹ The UK postal market was fully liberalised from 1 January 2006, and we took an early opportunity to examine how Royal Mail was coping with competition and implementation of the Renewal Plan to bring the company back into profit.¹² This inquiry raised a number

10 Together with our predecessors' comments on policy on trade promotion in relation to their inquiries into trade and investment opportunities with China and Taiwan and with South East Asia: *Trade and Investment Opportunities with China and Taiwan*, Fourteenth Report of Session 2002–03, HC 128; and *Trade with South East Asia*, Sixth Report of Session 2004–05, HC 368

11 Starting with oral evidence from the then Consignia in December 2001, HC 453-I of Session 2001–02; and continuing with *People, Pensions and Post Offices: The impact of 'Direct Payment' on post offices and their customers*, Eleventh Report of Session 2002–03, HC 718; *The Post Office Urban Network Reinvention Programme*, Seventh Report of Session 2003–04, HC 611; *The Post Office Urban Network Reinvention Revisited: Comments on responses to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2003–04*, Tenth Report of Session 2003–04, HC 1204; and *Crown Post Offices*, Sixth Report of Session 2004–05, HC 91

12 *Royal Mail after liberalisation*, Second Report of Session 2005–06, HC 570

of issues concerning the company's pension deficit and its plans for investment which could not be resolved at that time; and this fact, together with continuing uncertainty about the future of the Post Office network, led us to undertake a further inquiry into Royal Mail Group in July 2006.¹³ We have recently received the Government's response to this second Report and followed this up with oral evidence from the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 24 January 2007.

Industry-specific inquiries

17. By undertaking inquiries into the UK's automotive and aerospace industries we continued our predecessors' practice of following a rolling programme reviewing the health of specific industrial sectors and of the Government policies for the support and encouragement of innovation and development as it applies to those industries. In January 2006 we decided to inquire into issues connected with the collapse of MG Rover, but subsequent closures of and shift reductions in UK plants of other automotive companies led us to widen our terms of reference into 'Reasons for success and failure in the UK car industry'. We have finished taking oral evidence on this and will report early in 2007. We have also recently launched an inquiry into the effects of Airbus's recent problems on the UK aerospace industry, with a view to taking oral evidence from the principal parties in March.

Other inquiries into policy

18. We were also keen to examine how other policy proposals examined in detail by our predecessors were being implemented by the Government. Our work on the Export Credits Guarantee Department is described below; in response to our predecessors' recommendation in their Report *Jobs for the girls: The effect of occupational segregation on the gender pay gap*,¹⁴ we also wished to examine the implementation of the report of the Women and Work Commission by the Government, companies and trade unions.¹⁵ Co-ordination of government policy on gender equality issues is the responsibility of the Women and Equality Unit, which was transferred from the DTI to the Department for Communities and Local Government just after the 2005 general election. We agreed with the Communities and Local Government Committee that we should conduct the follow-up inquiry, and accordingly we have established a sub-Committee which will start taking oral evidence on this issue shortly.

Examining the administration of the Department

Monitoring of departmental agencies and associated public bodies

19. Although the precise number fluctuates from time to time, there are about 50 Executive Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, regulators and other associated public bodies

13 *Royal Mail Group*, Ninth Report of Session 2005–6, HC 1566

14 Sixteenth Report of Session 2004–05, HC 300-I

15 *Shaping a Fairer Future*, published February 2006

under the aegis of the DTI.¹⁶ Some of them—such as the regulators and the consumer protection bodies—contribute regularly to our inquiries. Others have not featured much in our policy-related work, and we have decided to focus especially on these.

20. Our predecessors reported twice into the work of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), on the second occasion—amongst other issues—reviewing the ECGD’s decision to relax its anti-corruption measures only six months after their introduction.¹⁷ At the time of this second Report, the ECGD was mired in legal difficulties arising from the changes made, and the then Committee recommended that its successors should return to the subject. We did so early in 2006, concluding that, though the consultation process had been badly handled in some ways and some of the changes to the anti-bribery procedures had been ill-considered, in the end the new rules achieved a reasonable balance between rigour and practicability.¹⁸ However, we were dissatisfied with the Government’s response to our Report, especially in relation to two issues (the role of agents as a conduit for bribes, and repayment of public monies when contracts are voided because of bribery or corruption); and we made a further report on those particular issues.¹⁹

21. In January 2006, we also began a series of brief inquiries into the work of various associated public bodies. We chose to start with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS), and subsequently two linked bodies, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.²⁰ We intend to continue with this series in 2007.

22. As already noted, our work overlaps in many areas with that of other select committees. The media and telecommunications regulator, Ofcom, falls to be dealt with by the Culture, Media and Sport Committee and us. Both Committees wished to examine Ofcom’s Annual Plan, so we held a concurrent meeting to take evidence from Ofcom’s Chairman and Chief Executive in May 2006. This was a success, and we intend to invite the Culture, Media and Sport Committee to repeat this experiment in 2007.

Strategic export controls

23. We continued our contribution to the ‘Committee Quadripartite’, together with members of the Foreign Affairs, Defence, and International Development Committees. The Committee carries out detailed scrutiny of the Government’s controls on exports of equipment and technology with a military application. In August 2006 the Quadripartite Committee published a Report on the Government’s Strategic Export Controls Annual Report for 2004 and Quarterly reports for 2005. In 2006 for the first time the Committee

16 Excluding the Research Councils, which, together with the Office for Science and Innovation, are the responsibility of our sister Science and Technology Committee

17 *The work of the Export Credits Guarantee Department*, Sixth Report of 2003-04, HC 506 and *Implementation of ECGD’s Business Principles*, Ninth Report of Session 2004-05, HC 374

18 Fifth Report of Session 2005-06, *Export Credits Guarantee Department’s bribery rules*, HC 1124

19 Eighth Report of Session 2005-06, *Export Credits Guarantee Department’s bribery rules: the Government’s response to the Committee’s Fifth Report of Session 2005-06*, HC 1670

20 Sixth Report of Session 2005-06, *The Work of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority*, HC 1028

took evidence from HM Revenue and Customs and the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office on the enforcement of export controls.

24. The Reports demonstrated the Committee's interest in a range of issues, including continuance of its predecessor's support for an international Arms Trade Treaty and for tightening controls on those trafficking and brokering arms. The Committee welcomed the Government's decision not to outsource the work of the Export Control Organisation. It also highlighted the increasing use of the Internet to promote and facilitate arms sales, and it concluded that the Government's response to the challenge of the Internet was too passive.

Other Committee activities

25. No major issues arose in the Winter Supplementary Estimates in 2005 or the Main or Winter Estimates in 2006. We wrote to the Department with some minor queries about the Spring Supplementary Estimates and received a satisfactory response. We have not undertaken a comprehensive review of the DTI's Public Sector Agreements (PSAs), but we have commented on progress towards achieving its PSAs in the context of several of our Reports. The Department's expenditure plans, its PSAs and its Resource Accounts were also covered in our formal evidence sessions and subsequent written evidence on the Departmental Annual Reports for 2005 and 2006 with the Permanent Secretary of the DTI in October 2005 and the Secretary of State in October 2006. The transcripts and associated written evidence have been published for both sessions.²¹

Visits

26. We undertake visits as part of our work programme in order to give us another perspective on issues to be addressed in some of our inquiries. Our visit to India in March contributed significantly to our understanding of the opportunities for and difficulties of conducting trade between the UK and India. In November 2006 we visited Argentina and Brazil to meet, in particular, British businessmen engaged in trade with these countries and to discuss the potential for and different obstacles to achieving increased trade with these countries, the effect of Mercosur membership on both and on the region generally and the merits of multi-lateral and bilateral trade agreements.

27. We continued our predecessors' practice of going to Brussels once a year to discuss with Commissioners and European Commission officials developments on trade and industry issues in the European Union. The agenda for the visit in November 2005 included the WTO negotiations and other external trade issues, and the liberalisation of the EU energy markets.

28. Our visit to the UKAEA's facilities at Culham was especially notable, and influenced our Report on the work of that body, in particular its research into nuclear fusion.

21 'DTI Annual Report', oral evidence taken on 25 October 2005, HC 599-i of Session 2005-06, and 'The Departmental Annual Report of the Department of Trade and Industry', oral evidence taken on 24 October 2006, HC 1684-i of Session 2005-06

The response from the DTI

29. In general the DTI has been responsive to our requests for information. It is perhaps understandable that the Government's replies to our Reports have been mixed. On some occasions the Government has been able to accept all or most of our conclusions and recommendations, for example on trade with India and the issues surrounding nuclear new build. On others, it has disagreed for policy reasons, for example on some aspects of the Quadripartite Committee's Report on strategic export controls and our criticisms of the removal of government business from the Post Office in our Report on Royal Mail Group. On only one occasion have we disagreed so strongly with the Government's response that we have been moved to return to the matter under consideration, as explained above in relation to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. In general, however, we continued to have a good working relationship with the Department of Trade and Industry .

Annex 1: Departmental Select Committee Objectives and Tasks

Objective A: To examine and comment on the policy of the Department

Task 1 To examine policy proposals from the UK Government and the European Commission in Green Papers, White Papers, draft Guidance etc, and to inquire further where the Committee considers it appropriate.

Task 2 To identify and examine areas of emerging policy, or where existing policy is deficient, and make proposals.

Task 3 To conduct scrutiny of any published draft bill within the Committee's responsibilities.

Task 4 To examine specific output from the Department expressed in documents or other decisions.

Objective B: To examine the expenditure of the Department.

Task 5 To examine the expenditure plans and out-turn of the Department, its agencies and principal Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Objective C: To examine the administration of the Department

Task 6 To examine the Department's Public Service Agreements, the associated targets and the statistical measurements employed, and report if appropriate.

Task 7 To monitor the work of the Department's Executive Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, regulators and other associated public bodies.

Task 8 To scrutinise major appointments made by the Department.

Task 9 To examine the implementation of legislation and major policy initiatives.

Objective D: To assist the House in debate and discussion.

Task 10 To produce Reports which are suitable for debate in the House, including Westminster Hall, or debating committees.

Annex 2: Reports published in 2005–06

Session 2005-06

First Special Report (Published 21.7.05)	Debt and Disconnection: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 362
Second Special Report (21.7.05)	Fuel Prices: Government's Response to the Committee's Twelfth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 363
Third Special Report (21.7.05)	Progress Towards the Knowledge Driven Economy: Response to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 364
Fourth Special Report (21.7.05)	UK Employment Regulation: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2004-05	HC 365
Fifth Special Report (21.7.05)	Implementation of ECGD's Business Principles: Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 366
Sixth Special Report (21.7.05)	Jobs for the Girls: Government Response to the Committee's Sixteenth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 367
Seventh Special Report (21.7.05)	UK Aerospace Industry: Government Response to the Committee's Fifteenth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 368
Eighth Special Report (20.10.05)	Trade with South-East Asia: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 521
Ninth Special Report (27.10.05)	Ofcom's Strategic Review of Telecommunications: Ofcom Response to the Committee's Thirteenth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 598
Tenth Special Report (20.1.06)	Security of Gas Supply: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2005-06	HC 833
Eleventh Special Report (8.7.06)	Royal Mail after Liberalisation: Responses to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2005-06	HC 960
Twelfth Special Report (29.3.06)	Security of Gas Supply: Ofgem Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2005-06	HC 992
Thirteenth Special Report (29.3.06)	Coal Health Compensation Schemes: Government Response to the Committee's Fourteenth Report of Session 2004-05	HC 993
Fourteenth Special Report (31.10.06)	New Nuclear? Examining the issues: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2005-06	HC 1663
Fifteenth Special Report (3.11.06)	Trade and Investment Opportunities with India: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2005-06	HC 1671
Sixteenth Special Report (8.11.06)	The Work of the NDA and UKAEA: Government Response to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2005-06	HC 1699
First Report (13.12.05)	Security of Gas Supply	HC 632-I
Second Report (20.12.05)	Royal Mail after Liberalisation	HC 570-I
Third Report (22.6.06)	Trade and Investment Opportunities with India	HC 881-I
Fourth Report (10.7.06)	New Nuclear? Examining the Issues	HC 1122
Fifth Report (25.7.06)	Export Credits Guarantee Department's bribery rules	HC 1124

Sixth Report (16.8.06)	The work of the NDA and UKAEA	HC 1028
Seventh Report/First Joint Report (3.8.06)	Strategic Export Controls: Annual Report for 2004, Quarterly Reports for 2005, Licensing Policy and Parliamentary Scrutiny	HC 873
Eighth Report (27.10.06)	Export Credits Guarantee Department's bribery rules: the Government's response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2005-06	HC 1670
Ninth Report (30.10.06)	Royal Mail Group	HC 1566-I

Formal minutes

Tuesday 20 February 2006

Members present:

Mr Peter Luff, in the Chair

Mr Peter Bone
Mr Lindsay Hoyle
Mr Mark Hunter
Julie Kirkbride

Judy Mallaber
Rob Marris
Mr Mike Weir
Mr Anthony Wright

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (Work of the Committee in 2005-06), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 29 read and agreed to.

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

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 February at 10.30am