



House of Commons

Members Estimate Committee

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**Consolidated list of  
provisions of the  
Resolutions of the  
House relating to  
expenditure charged to  
the Estimate for House  
of Commons: Members**

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**Second Report of Session 2008–09**





## Members Estimate Committee

The Members Estimate Committee has the same Members as the House of Commons Commission:

Rt Hon Michael Martin MP, Speaker  
Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Leader of the House  
Alan Duncan MP, Shadow Leader of the House  
Sir Stuart Bell MP  
Nick Harvey MP  
Rt Hon David Maclean MP

The Committee is appointed under Standing Order No 152D (*House of Commons Members Estimate Committee*):

**152D.**—(1) There shall be a committee of this House, called the House of Commons Members Estimate Committee.

(2) The members of the committee shall be those Members who are at any time members of the House of Commons Commission pursuant to section 1 of the House of Commons (Administration) Act 1978; the Speaker shall be chairman of committee; and three shall be the quorum of the committee.

(3) The functions of the committee shall be—

- (a) to codify and keep under review the provisions of the resolutions of this House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members;
- (b) to modify those provisions from time to time as the committee may think necessary or desirable in the interests of clarity, consistency, accountability and effective administration, and conformity with current circumstances;
- (c) to provide advice, when requested by the Speaker, on the application of those provisions in individual cases;
- (d) to carry out the responsibilities conferred on the Speaker by the resolution of the House of 5th July 2001 relating to Members' Allowances, Insurance, &c.;
- (e) to consider appeals against determinations made by the Committee on Members' Allowances under paragraph (1) (d) of Standing Order No 152G.

(4) Paragraph (3)(b) above does not empower the committee—

- (a) to create a new form of charge on the Estimate for House of Commons: Members; or
- (b) to increase any rate of charge or payment determined by resolution of this House.

(5) The committee shall report to the House from time to time, and in any case not less than once a year, the provisions of the resolutions of this House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members, as codified and modified pursuant to paragraph (3) of this order.

(6) The committee shall have power to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House.

### Committee staff

The staff of the Committee are Dorian Gerhold, Jenny McCullough and Louise Sargent.

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# Consolidated list of provisions of the Resolutions of the House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members

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1. One of the functions of the Members Estimate Committee, as set out in Standing Order No 152D, is to “report to the House from time to time, and in any case not less than once a year, the provisions of the resolutions of this House relating to expenditure charged to the Estimate for House of Commons: Members”, as codified and modified by the Committee. The Standing Order empowers us to modify the provisions of the Resolutions as we consider “necessary or desirable in the interests of clarity, consistency, accountability and effective administration, and conformity with current circumstances”, but not to create a new form of charge on the Estimate or to increase any rate of charge or payment determined by Resolution of the House.

2. However, on 22 January 2009 the House resolved that the revised *Guide to Members’ Allowances* (the Green Book) should govern all expenditure on Members’ allowances for claims relating to expenditure on or after 1 April 2009. It instructed us to review the Resolutions of the House relating to Members’ allowances, to “make such modifications to them as are necessary to ensure that they are consistent with the provisions in the Green Book”, and to report to the House. This gave us a wider authority than that conferred by our Standing Order to modify the Resolutions, provided that any modifications were necessary to make the Resolutions consistent with the Green Book. Most of the modifications recorded below as having been made by the Committee on 2 March 2009 have been made with that authority.<sup>1</sup>

3. The consolidated list of the provisions of the Resolutions is published as Annex 1 to this Report.

4. The consolidated list sets out the Resolutions which apply from 1 April 2009. For the convenience of Members, the figures given at paras 1.7, 1.12, 6.5, 8.3, 9.3, 9.9 and 9.10 are those applying from 1 April 2009.

5. The consolidated list indicates when each Resolution was agreed to by the House or each modification was made by the Committee. However, we have not recorded the dates of drafting changes made by us which do not change the substance of a provision. These include the new titles of the allowances, addition of references to ‘civil partners’ where only spouses were formerly referred to, the standardisation of references to “main home” (as opposed to “main residence” or “ordinary residence”) and the updating of the names of organisations (HM Revenue and Customs and Department of Resources).

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<sup>1</sup> In our First Report of 2008–09, Revised Green Book and audit of Members’ allowances, HC 142, pages 35–6, we set out a list of amendments which would be required to the Resolutions if the revised Green Book were agreed to by the House. The Green Book is relevant to chapters 3 to 8 of Annex 1.















































