



House of Commons
Standards and Privileges
Committee

Formal Minutes

Session 2009–10

*Ordered by The House of Commons
to be published*

The Committee on *Standards* and Privileges

The Committee on Standards and Privileges is appointed by the House of Commons to oversee the work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; to examine the arrangements proposed by the Commissioner for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Interests and any other registers of interest established by the House; to review from time to time the form and content of those registers; to consider any specific complaints made in relation to the registering or declaring of interests referred to it by the Commissioner; to consider any matter relating to the conduct of Members, including specific complaints in relation to alleged breaches in the Code of Conduct which have been drawn to the Committee's attention by the Commissioner; and to recommend any modifications to the Code of Conduct as may from time to time appear to be necessary.

Current membership

Rt hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP (*Conservative, Kensington & Chelsea*) (Chairman)
Rt hon Kevin Barron MP (*Labour, Rother Valley*)
Mr Andrew Dismore MP (*Labour, Hendon*)
Nick Harvey MP (*Liberal Democrat, North Devon*)
Rt hon Greg Knight MP (*Conservative, East Yorkshire*)
Mr Elfyn Llwyd MP (*Plaid Cymru, Meirionnydd Nant Conwy*)
Mr Chris Mullin MP (*Labour, Sunderland South*)
The hon Nicholas Soames MP (*Conservative, Mid Sussex*)
Mr Paddy Tipping MP (*Labour, Sherwood*)
Dr Alan Whitehead MP (*Labour, Southampton Test*)

Powers

The constitution and powers of the Committee are set out in Standing Order No. 149. In particular, the Committee has power to order the attendance of any Member of Parliament before the committee and to require that specific documents or records in the possession of a Member relating to its inquiries, or to the inquiries of the Commissioner, be laid before the Committee. The Committee has power to refuse to allow its public proceedings to be broadcast. The Law Officers, if they are Members of Parliament, may attend and take part in the Committee's proceedings, but may not vote.

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/sandp.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Mr Steve Priestley, Miss Rhiannon Hollis (Second Clerk) and Ms Jane Cooper (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to The Clerk of the Committee on Standards and Privileges, Journal Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 6615.

Proceedings of the Committee

Tuesday 24 November 2009

Members present:

Mr Kevin Barron	Mr Chris Mullin
Mr Andrew Dismore	The Hon Nicholas Soames
Nick Harvey	Dr Alan Whitehead
Mr Greg Knight	

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Chris Mullin was called to the Chair for the meeting.

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*Mr Mullin.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. Note by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Mr David Curry

Ordered, That the Commissioner have leave, if he think fit, to investigate, at Mr David Curry's request, allegations relating to Mr Curry's conduct.—(*Mr Mullin.*)

2. Briefing by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

The Commissioner briefed the Committee.

3. Note by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Mr David Wilshire

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on David Tredinnick

The Committee considered this matter.

5. David Tredinnick

Draft Report (David Tredinnick), proposed by Mr Mullin, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 8 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 9 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 10 and 11 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 12 read, amended and agreed to.

Two Papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That Mr Mullin make the Report to the House.

6. Implementing the Twelfth Report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life

Draft Report (Implementing the Twelfth Report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life), proposed by Mr Mullin, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 3 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 6 to 9 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 10 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 11 and 12 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 13 and 14 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 15 to 23 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 24 and 25 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 26 read and agreed to.

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

Ordered, That Mr Mullin make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 December at 9.30 am

Tuesday 1 December 2009

Members present:

Mr Kevin Barron

Mr Chris Mullin

Mr Andrew Dismore

Sir Malcolm Rifkind

Mr Greg Knight

Mr Paddy Tipping

Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Dr Alan Whitehead

Sir Malcolm Rifkind was called to the Chair.

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Mr Stephen Byers**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Mr Stephen Byers**

Draft Report (Mr Stephen Byers), 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 20 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 21 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 22 and 23 read and agreed to.

Two Papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Third Report of the Committee to the House.

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

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 December at 9.30 am

Tuesday 8 December 2009

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Greg Knight

Mr Elfyn Llwyd
Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Briefing by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Commissioner briefed the Committee.

2. **Memorandum by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Mr Jeremy Hunt**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Mr Jeremy Hunt**

Draft Report (Mr Jeremy Hunt), 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 12 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 13 read, amended and agreed to.

A paper was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Fourth Report of the Committee to the House.

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

[Adjourned till Wednesday 6 January 2010 at 9.30am

Wednesday 6 January 2010

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Greg Knight
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Briefing by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Commissioner briefed the Committee.

2. **Memorandum from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Mr Brian Binley**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Mr Brian Binley**

Draft Report (Mr Brian Binley), 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 3 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 4 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 5 to 18 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 19 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 20 to 24 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 25 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 26 to 34 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 35 read, amended and agreed to.

Two papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Fifth Report of the Committee to the House.

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

4. **Note by the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests on voluntary registration**

The Registrar of Members' Financial Interests attended.

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **Note by the Clerk on a request for written evidence from the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee on Standards and Privileges**

Ordered, That the Clerk have leave to submit written evidence to the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee on Standards and Privileges.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 9.30am

Tuesday 19 January 2010

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron

Mr Chris Mullin

Mr Andrew Dismore

The Hon Nicholas Soames

Nick Harvey

Mr Paddy Tipping

Mr Greg Knight

Dr Alan Whitehead

Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Briefing by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Commissioner briefed the Committee.

2. **Memorandum by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Mr George Osborne**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Mr George Osborne**

Draft Report (Mr George Osborne), 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 17 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 18 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 19 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 20 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 21 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 22 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 23 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 24 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 25 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 26 read, amended and agreed to.

Two Papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Sixth Report of the Committee to the House.

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

4. **Memorandum by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Harry Cohen**

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **Harry Cohen**

Draft Report (Harry Cohen), 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 14 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 15 to 17 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 18 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 19 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 20 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 21 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 22 read and agreed to.

Two Papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Seventh Report of the Committee to the House.

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

6. **Information on complaints: Note from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

7. **Matter relating to Privilege referred on 14 January**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 2 February at 9.30 am

Tuesday 2 February 2010

Members present:

Mr Kevin Barron

Mr Andrew Dismore

Mr Greg Knight

Mr Chris Mullin

Mr Paddy Tipping

Dr Alan Whitehead

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Chris Mullin was called to the Chair for the meeting.

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(Mr Mullin.)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Briefing by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Commissioner briefed the Committee.

2. **Memorandum from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Mrs Anne Main**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Mrs Anne Main**

Draft Report (Mrs Anne Main), proposed by Mr Mullin, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 23 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 24 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 25 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 26 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 27 to 29 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 30 read, amended and agreed to.

Two papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Eighth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That Mr Mullin make the Report to the House.

4. **All-Party Groups**

The Registrar of Members' Financial Interests and the Assistant Registrar attended.

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **Matter relating to Privilege referred on 14 January**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 February at 9.30 am

Tuesday 23 February 2010

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron

Mr Chris Mullin

Mr Andrew Dismore

Mr Paddy Tipping

Nick Harvey

Dr Alan Whitehead

Mr Greg Knight

1. **Matter relating to Privilege referred on 14 January**

Draft Report (Privilege: John Hemming and Withers LLP), 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 25 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 26 and 27 read, amended and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Ninth Report of the Committee to the House.

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

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report.

2. **John Barrett, Sir Alan Beith, Sir Menzies Campbell, Sandra Gidley, Paul Holmes and Richard Younger-Ross**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Seventh Report from the Joint Committee on Human Rights**

Mr Dismore declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and withdrew from the meeting.

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 2 March at 9.30 am

Tuesday 2 March 2010

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron	Hon Nicholas Soames
Nick Harvey	Mr Paddy Tipping
Mr Greg Knight	Dr Alan Whitehead
Mr Chris Mullin	

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman*.)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **John Barrett, Sir Alan Beith, Sir Menzies Campbell, Sandra Gidley, Paul Holmes and Richard Younger-Ross**

Oral Evidence was heard from: Sir Menzies Campbell MP, Sir Alan Beith MP, Richard Younger-Ross MP, Paul Holmes MP, Sandra Gidley MP and John Barrett MP.

2. **Briefing by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Commissioner briefed the Committee.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 March at 9.30 am

Tuesday 9 March 2010

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron	Mr Chris Mullin
Andrew Dismore	Mr Paddy Tipping
Nick Harvey	Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman*.)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Memorandum from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Alan Keen and Ann Keen**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Alan Keen and Ann Keen**

Draft Report (Alan Keen and Ann Keen), 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 and 2 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 3 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 4 to 20 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 21 and 22 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 23 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 24 read, amended and agreed to.

Two papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Tenth Report of the Committee to the House.

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

3. **John Barrett, Sir Alan Beith, Sir Menzies Campbell, Sandra Gidley, Paul Holmes and Richard Younger-Ross**

The Committee further considered this matter.

4. **Publication of correspondence from Members**

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **Matter relating to Privilege referred on 23 February**

Mr Dismore declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and withdrew from the meeting.

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 March at 9.30 am

Tuesday 16 March 2010

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron

Hon Nicholas Soames

Nick Harvey

Mr Paddy Tipping

Mr Greg Knight

Dr Alan Whitehead

Mr Chris Mullin

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman*.)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Briefing by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Commissioner briefed the Committee.

2. **John Barrett, Sir Alan Beith, Sir Menzies Campbell, Sandra Gidley, Paul Holmes and Richard Younger-Ross**

Draft Report (John Barrett, Sir Alan Beith, Sir Menzies Campbell, Sandra Gidley, Paul Holmes and Richard Younger-Ross), 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 10 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 11 and 12 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 13 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 14 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 15 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 16 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 17 to 19 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 20 and 21 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 22 to 32 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 33 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 34 and 35 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 36 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 37 to 41 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 42 and 43 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 44 to 58 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 59 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 60 to 72 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 73 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 74 to 87 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 88 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 89 to 91 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 92 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 93 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 94 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 95 to 111 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 112 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 113 to 129 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 130 read, amended and agreed to.

A paper was appended to the Report.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report.

Ordered, That the transcript of the oral evidence taken by the Committee on 2 March be reported to the House.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Eleventh Report of the Committee to the House.

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

3. **Matter relating to Privilege referred on 23 February**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 March at 9.30 am

Tuesday 23 March 2010

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron

Hon Nicholas Soames

Nick Harvey

Dr Alan Whitehead

Mr Chris Mullin

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman*.)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Note by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on allegations arising from a television broadcast**

Ordered, That the Commissioner have leave, if he think fit, to investigate, at the request of the Member concerned, allegations relating to any Member's conduct made in the *Despatches* television broadcast of Monday 22 March.—(*The Chairman*.)

2. **Memorandum from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on Mr David Curry**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Mr David Curry**

Draft Report (Mr David Curry), 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 31 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 32 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 33 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 34 and 35 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 36 to 40 read and agreed to.

Two papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Twelfth Report of the Committee to the House.

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

4. **Note by the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests on voluntary registration**

The Registrar of Members' Financial Interests attended.

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **Matter relating to Privilege referred on 23 February**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 30 March at 9.30 am

Tuesday 30 March 2010

Members present:

Sir Malcolm Rifkind, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron	Mr Chris Mullin
Andrew Dismore	Hon Nicholas Soames
Nick Harvey	Mr Paddy Tipping
Mr Greg Knight	Dr Alan Whitehead
Mr Elfyn Llwyd	

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Briefing by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Commissioner briefed the Committee.

2. **Correspondence from Members**

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Letter dated 25 March from Mr David Curry
 Letter dated 26 March from Sandra Gidley
 Letter dated 26 March from Paul Holmes
 Letter dated 26 March from Richard Younger-Ross
 Letter dated 30 March from John Barrett

3. **Matter relating to Privilege referred on 23 February**

Mr Dismore declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and withdrew from the meeting.

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Letters dated 2, 22 and 29 March from the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission
 Letter dated 4 March from the Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights
 Letters dated 4 and 10 March from the Commons Clerk of the Joint Committee on Human Rights
 Letter dated 4 March from Fiona Mactaggart MP
 Letter dated 3 March from Mr Richard Shepherd MP
 Letter dated 11 March from Mr Virendra Sharma MP

4. **Any other business**

Resolved, That the Committee thanks Mr Chris Mullin and Mr Paddy Tipping for their contributions to the work of the Committee.—(*The Chairman.*)

Resolved, That the Committee thanks the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and his staff and the Clerks and staff of the Committee for their support of the work of the Committee.—(*The Chairman.*)

[The Committee adjourned]
