

ADDENDUM
TO THE
STANDING ORDERS
OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
RELATING TO PUBLIC BUSINESS

3 June 2015

Amendments to Standing Order No. 122B (Election of select committee chairs), Standing Order No. 143 (European Scrutiny Committee), Standing Order No. 146 (Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee), Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments) and Standing Order No. 152K (Public Bodies: draft orders)

*Reprinted from the
Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons
of 3 June 2015.*

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 122B
(Election of select committee chairs) is as follows.¹*

122B.—(1) The chairs of the following select committees shall be elected by the House in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (14) below: Election of select committee chairs.

5 (a) select committees appointed under Standing Order
No. 152 (Select committees related to government
departments);

(b) the Environmental Audit Committee;

(c) the Petitions Committee;

10 (d) *the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs
Committee;*

(e) the Committee of Public Accounts;

(f) the Procedure Committee; and

(g) the Committee on Standards.

15 (2) The day following his election at the start of a new
Parliament, the Speaker shall communicate to the leaders of
each party represented in the House the proportion of chairs of
select committees to be elected under this order falling to each
such party which would reflect the composition of the House.

20 (3) If, within a week of the Queen's Speech, a motion in the
name of the leaders of all the parties entitled to one or more
chairs of select committees subject to election under this order
specifying to which party each such chair is allocated is moved,
the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on the

1. New text shown in italics.

motion shall be put not later than one hour after their commencement, proceedings on the motion shall be exempted business and Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions) shall not apply. 25

(4) If a motion to which paragraph (3) above applies also makes changes to Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments) which are consequential on changes to the machinery of government, then the questions necessary to dispose of proceedings on the motion shall be put not later than one and a half hours after their commencement; proceedings on the motion shall be exempted business; and Standing Order No. 41A (Deferred divisions) shall not apply. 30 35

(5) If, on the expiry of two weeks after the Queen's Speech, no motion in the name of the leaders of all the parties entitled to one or more chairs of select committees subject to election under this order specifying to which party each said chair is allocated has been tabled, on the following sitting day the Speaker shall give precedence to a motion tabled thereafter by any Member to allocate chairs under this order and the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) shall apply to proceedings on such a motion. 40

(6) If the House has agreed a motion allocating chairs to parties the election of the chairs shall take place in accordance with the remaining provisions of this order. 45

(7) The ballots shall take place fourteen days after the approval of the motion allocating chairs to parties.

(8) (a) Nominations of candidates shall be in writing and shall be received by the Clerk of the House by 5.00 pm on the day before the ballot. 50

(b) Each nomination shall consist of a signed statement made by the candidate declaring his willingness to

- 55 stand for election, accompanied by the signatures of fifteen Members elected to the House as members of the same party as the candidate or ten per cent. of the Members elected to the House as members of that party, whichever is the lower.
- 60 (c) Statements may be accompanied by signatures of up to five Members elected to the House as members of any party other than that to which the candidate belongs, or members of no party.
- 65 (d) No Member may sign the statement of more than one candidate for chair of the same select committee.
- 70 (e) No Member may be a candidate for the chair of a select committee which has not been allocated to his party under paragraph (3) of this order or otherwise, or for which he is ineligible under Standing Order No. 122A (Term limits for chairs of select committees).
- (f) No Member may be a candidate for the chair of the Committee of Public Accounts or the Committee on Standards unless his party is that of the official Opposition.
- 75 (g) No Member may be a candidate for more than one chair elected under this order.
- (h) As soon as practicable following the close of nominations, lists of the candidates and their accompanying signatories shall be published.
- 80 (9) Election of chairs of select committees under this order shall be by secret ballot.
- (10) Preparatory arrangements for the ballots shall be made under the supervision of the Clerk of the House.

- (11) (a) If there is only one candidate for the chair of a select committee, that candidate shall be declared elected without a ballot. 85
- (b) The ballot shall take place in a place appointed by the Speaker.
- (c) Each Member intending to vote shall be provided with a ballot paper for each select committee bearing the names of the candidates listed in alphabetical order. 90
- (d) Members will vote by ranking as many candidates as they wish in order of preference, marking 1 by the name of their first preference, 2 by the name of their second preference, and so on. Any candidate who receives more than half the first preferences shall be elected. If no candidate is so elected, the candidate or candidates with the lowest number of first preferences shall be eliminated and their votes distributed among the remaining candidates according to the preferences on them. If no candidate has more than half the votes, the process of elimination and distribution is repeated, until one candidate has more than half the votes. 95
100
- (e) The ballot shall be open between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm and counting shall take place under arrangements made by the Clerk of the House. 105
- (12) The Speaker shall have power to give directions on any matter of doubt arising from the conduct of a ballot or from an individual ballot paper and to vary the timings given in paragraphs (6) to (11) of this order. 110
- (13) As soon as practicable after the closing of the ballot the results shall be published under the direction of the Speaker.

(14) A chair elected under this order is a member of the committee of which he is elected chair.

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 143
(European Scrutiny Committee) is as follows.¹*

143.—(1) There shall be a select committee, to be called the European Scrutiny Committee, to examine European Union documents and—

5 (a) to report its opinion on the legal and political importance of each such document and, where it considers appropriate, to report also on the reasons for its opinion and on any matters of principle, policy or law which may be affected;

10 (b) to make recommendations for the further consideration of any such document pursuant to Standing Order No. 119 (European Committees); and

 (c) to consider any issue arising upon any such document or group of documents, or related matters.

15 The expression ‘European Union document’ in this order and in Standing Order No. 16 (Proceedings under an Act or on European Union documents), No. 89 (Procedure in general committees) and No. 119 (European Committees) means—

20 (i) any proposal under the Community Treaties for legislation by the Council or the Council acting jointly with the European Parliament;

1. New text shown in italics.

- (ii) any document which is published for submission to the European Council, the Council or the European Central Bank;
- (iii) any proposal for a common strategy, a joint action or a common position under Title V of the Treaty on European Union which is prepared for submission to the Council or to the European Council; 25
- (iv) any proposal for a common position, framework decision, decision or a convention under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union which is prepared for submission to the Council; 30
- (v) any document (not falling within (ii), (iii) or (iv) above) which is published by one Union institution for or with a view to submission to another Union institution and which does not relate exclusively to consideration of any proposal for legislation; 35
- (vi) any other document relating to European Union matters deposited in the House by a Minister of the Crown.
- (2) The committee shall consist of sixteen Members. 40
- (3) The committee and any sub-committee appointed by it shall have the assistance of the Counsel to the Speaker.
- (4) The committee shall have power to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee's order of reference. 45
- (5) The committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of

50 the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time.

(6) The quorum of the committee shall be five.

(7) The committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to refer to such sub-committees any of the matters referred to the committee.

55 (8) Every such sub-committee shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report to the committee from time to time.

60 (9) The committee shall have power to report from time to time the evidence taken before such sub-committees.

(10) The quorum of every such sub-committee shall be two.

65 (11) The committee shall have power to seek from any committee specified in paragraph (12) of this order its opinion on any European Union document, and to require a reply to such a request within such time as it may specify.

70 (12) The committees specified for the purposes of this order are those appointed under Standing Order No. 152 (Select committees related to government departments) including any sub-committees of such committees, the *Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee*, the Committee of Public Accounts, and the Environmental Audit Committee.

(13) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament.

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 146
(Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs
Committee) is as follows.¹*

Public
Administration
and
Constitutional
Affairs
Committee.

146.—(1) *There shall be a select committee, to be called the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, to examine the reports of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration and the Health Service Commissioner for England, which are laid before this House, and matters in connection therewith; to consider matters relating to the quality and standards of administration provided by civil service departments, and other matters relating to the civil service; and to consider constitutional affairs.* 5

(2) *The committee shall consist of eleven Members.* 10

(3) The committee shall have power—

(a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time; and 15

(b) to appoint specialist advisers to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee's order of reference.

(4) Unless the House otherwise orders, each Member nominated to the committee shall continue to be a member of it for the remainder of the Parliament. 20

(5) The committee shall have power to appoint a sub-committee, which shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of

1. New text shown in italics.

25 the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report to the committee from time to time.

(6) The committee shall have power to report from time to time the evidence taken before the sub-committee.

(7) The quorum of the sub-committee shall be three.

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 152
(Select committees related to government departments)
is as follows.^{1, 2}*

152.—(1) Select committees shall be appointed to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the principal government departments as set out in paragraph (2) of this order and associated public bodies.

Select committees related to government departments.

5 (2) The committees appointed under paragraph (1) of this order, the principal departments of government with which they are concerned and the maximum numbers of each committee shall be as follows:

<i>Name of Committee</i>	<i>Principal government departments concerned</i>	<i>Maximum members</i>
1 Business, Innovation and Skills	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	11
2 Communities and Local Government	Department for Communities and Local Government	11
3 Culture, Media and Sport	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	11

1. New text shown in italics.

2. This amendment is to have effect until the end of the current Parliament.

<i>Name of Committee</i>	<i>Principal government departments concerned</i>	<i>Maximum members</i>
4 Defence	Ministry of Defence	11
5 Education	Department for Education	11
6 Energy and Climate Change	Department of Energy and Climate Change	11
7 Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	11
8 Foreign Affairs	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	11
9 Health	Department of Health	11
10 Home Affairs	Home Office	11
11 International Development	Department for International Development	11
12 Justice	Ministry of Justice (including the work of staff provided for the administrative work of courts and tribunals, but excluding consideration of individual cases and appointments, and excluding the work of the Scotland and Wales Offices and of the Advocate General for Scotland); and administration and expenditure of the Attorney General's Office, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office (but excluding individual cases and appointments and advice given within government by Law Officers)	11

<i>Name of Committee</i>	<i>Principal government departments concerned</i>	<i>Maximum members</i>
13 Northern Ireland Affairs	Northern Ireland Office; administration and expenditure of the Crown Solicitor's Office (but excluding individual cases and advice given by the Crown Solicitor); and other matters within the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (but excluding the expenditure, administration and policy of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Northern Ireland and the drafting of legislation by the Office of the Legislative Counsel)	13
14 Science and Technology	Government Office for Science	11
15 Scottish Affairs	Scotland Office (including (i) relations with the Scottish Parliament and (ii) administration and expenditure of the offices of the Advocate General for Scotland (but excluding individual cases and advice given within government by the Advocate General))	11
16 Transport	Department for Transport	11
17 Treasury	Treasury, HM Revenue & Customs	11
18 Welsh Affairs	Wales Office (including relations with the National Assembly for Wales)	11
19 <i>Women and Equalities</i>	<i>Government Equalities Office</i>	<i>11</i>
20 Work and Pensions	Department for Work and Pensions	11

10 (3) Each select committee appointed under this order shall have the power to appoint a sub-committee.

(4) Select committees appointed under this order shall have power—

(a) to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, and to report from time to time; 15

(b) to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the committee's order of reference; and 20

(c) to report from time to time the evidence taken before sub-committees, and the formal minutes of sub-committees;

and the sub-committees appointed under this order shall have power to send for persons, papers and records, to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House, to adjourn from place to place, to report from time to time their formal minutes, and shall have a quorum of three. 25

(5) Unless the House otherwise orders, all Members nominated to a committee appointed under this order shall continue to be members of that committee for the remainder of the Parliament. 30

*The text of the amended Standing Order No. 152K
(Public Bodies: draft orders) is as follows.¹*

Public Bodies:
draft orders.

152K.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the select committee charged with reporting on a draft order for the purposes of section 11(5) and (6) of the Public Bodies Act 2011 shall be—

1. New text shown in italics.

- 5 (a) the select committee appointed under Standing Order
No. 152 (Select committees related to government
departments) appointed to examine the expenditure,
administration and policy of the department of the
Minister who has laid the draft order; or
- 10 (b) in respect of a draft order laid by a Minister in the
Cabinet Office, the *Public Administration and
Constitutional Affairs Committee*.

15 (2) The Liaison Committee may report that it has designated
a select committee appointed under Standing Order No. 152
(Select committees related to government departments) or the
Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee as
the select committee charged with reporting on a specified
draft order for the purposes of section 11(5) and (6) of the
Public Bodies Act 2011 in place of the select committee to
which paragraph (1) applies.