House of Commons
Treasury Committee

Re-appointment of Alex Brazier to the Financial Policy Committee

Tenth Report of Session 2017–19
Re-appointment of Alex Brazier to the Financial Policy Committee

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Report, together with formal minutes relating to the report

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 18 April 2018
The Treasury Committee

The Treasury Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs and associated public bodies.

Current membership

Nicky Morgan MP (Conservative, Loughborough) (Chair)
Rushanara Ali MP (Labour, Bethnal Green and Bow)
Mr Simon Clarke MP (Conservative, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland)
Charlie Elphicke MP (Independent, Dover)
Stephen Hammond MP (Conservative, Wimbledon)
Stewart Hosie MP (Scottish National Party, Dundee East)
Mr Alister Jack MP (Conservative, Dumfries and Galloway)
Alison McGovern MP (Labour, Wirral South)
Catherine McKinnell MP (Labour, Newcastle upon Tyne North)
John Mann MP (Labour, Bassetlaw)
Wes Streeting MP (Labour, Ilford North)

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.parliament.uk.

Publication

Committee reports are published on the Committee's website at www.parliament.uk/treascom and in print by Order of the House.

Evidence relating to this report is published on the inquiry publications page of the Committee’s website.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Sarah Rees (Clerk), Peter Stam (Second Clerk), Gavin Thompson, Marcus Wilton and Dan Lee (Senior Economists), Adam Wales (Chief Policy Adviser), George James (Senior Committee Assistant), Nick Berry (Committee Support Assistant), Matt Panteli (Senior Media and Policy Officer), Anne Stark (on secondment from HM Revenue & Customs), Tom Ludlow (on secondment from the Bank of England), Carolyn Draper (on secondment from the Financial Conduct Authority), Alexander Knight (on secondment from the National Audit Office) and Mei Jie Wang (on secondment from the Prudential Regulation Authority).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Treasury Committee, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5769; the Committee’s email address is treascom@parliament.uk.
Introduction

1. The Bank of England announced the re-appointment of Alex Brazier as a member of the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) of the Bank of England on 7 February 2018.\(^1\) His re-appointment was effective from 1 April 2018 for a period of three years. Mr Brazier is Executive Director for Financial Stability Strategy and Risk at the Bank of England.

2. In this report, the Committee has considered the suitability of Mr Brazier for his re-appointment to this role against the criteria of personal independence and professional competence.

3. The Committee took oral evidence from Mr Brazier on 18 April 2018. He provided a full CV and answered a written questionnaire prior to giving oral evidence. The Committee thanks Mr Brazier for this evidence, which is appended to this Report.

\(^1\) Bank of England, Financial Policy Committee reappointments, 7 February 2018
The re-appointment of Alex Brazier

Background on Alex Brazier

4. Mr Brazier has been a member of the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) and Executive Director for Financial Stability Strategy and Risk at the Bank of England since April 2015. Mr Brazier has worked at the Bank of England since 2000. He was previously Principal Private Secretary to the Governor, a role he began in 2011. Prior to that he was the Manager of the UK Forecasting Team between 2008 and 2011, where he led production of the staff forecasts of all aspects of the UK economy and presented forecasts to the Monetary Policy Committee. Between 2005 and 2008 he was speechwriter to the Governor, and before that UK Economic Analyst between 2000 and 2005. Mr Brazier has an MSc in Economics from the University of Warwick (2000), and an MA in Economics from Christ’s College, Cambridge (1999).

Oral evidence

5. In oral evidence, the Committee questioned Mr Brazier about the work of the Financial Policy Committee. Topics covered during the session included:

- His position on the setting of the countercyclical capital buffer
- Whether the FPC will vote on decisions around the countercyclical capital buffer
- Whether firms are taking into account the FPC’s statements
- His communication strategy as an FPC member
- Financial stability and the risks around the transition period before exiting the EU
- The impact of FPC’s actions following the EU referendum
- Pressure for a lighter touch regulatory regime
- Whether there are areas of regulation that can be refined
- Proposals for reform in the US financial regulatory system
- The impact of financial innovation and new technology on the financial system
- The relationship of the Bank’s Financial Stability function with the FCA
- The potential rise of non-bank institutions in the financial system, such as Amazon
- Consumer confidence and household lending
- The impact of the term funding scheme
- The risks from the build-up of Chinese debt
- Current pricing in global debt markets
• The stature of the Financial Stability area in the Bank, and the impact on it of exiting the EU
• Academic engagement with the FPC

**Conclusion**

6. The Committee is satisfied that Mr Brazier has the professional competence and personal independence to be a member of the Financial Policy Committee of the Bank of England. We wish him every success in his continuing role.
Formal minutes

Wednesday 18 April 2018

Members present:
Nicky Morgan, in the Chair
Rushanara Ali
Simon Clarke
Stewart Hosie
Catherine McKinnell
Stephen Hammond

Draft Report (Re-appointment of Alex Brazier to the Financial Policy Committee), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

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

Paragraphs 1 to 6 read and agreed to.

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

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

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 April at 9.45am.]
Witnesses

The following witnesses gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the inquiry publications page of the Committee’s website.

Wednesday 18 April 2018

Alex Brazier, Member, Financial Policy Committee

Published written evidence

The following written evidence was received and can be viewed on the inquiry publications page of the Committee’s website.

ABF numbers are generated by the evidence processing system and so may not be complete.

1 Alex Brazier (ABF0002)
2 Alex Brazier (ABF0003)
# List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee’s website. The reference number of the Government’s response to each Report is printed in brackets after the HC printing number.

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