



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday 28 March 2018

Votes and Proceedings

The House met at 11.30 am.

Prayers

1 West Tyrone Writ

Ordered, That the Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new Writ for the electing of a Member to serve in this present Parliament for the County Constituency of West Tyrone, in the room of Columba Barry McElduff, who, since his election for the said County Constituency, has been appointed to the Office of Steward and Bailiff of Her Majesty's Three Chiltern Hundreds of Stoke, Desborough and Burnham in the county of Buckingham.—(*Julian Smith.*)

2 Royal Assent

The Speaker reported that the Queen has signified Royal Assent to the following Acts under the Royal Assent Act 1967.

Northern Ireland (Regional Rates and Energy) Act 2018.

Northern Ireland Assembly Members (Pay) Act 2018.

Northern Ireland Budget (Anticipation and Adjustments) Act 2018.

3 Questions to (1) the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Minister for the Cabinet Office

(2) the Prime Minister

4 Urgent Question: Kerslake arena attack review (Mr Ben Wallace)

5 Statement: Warboys case and the Parole Board (Secretary David Gauke)

6 Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Bill: Presentation (Standing Order No. 57)

Secretary Sajid Javid, supported by the Prime Minister, Mr David Lidington, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary Greg Clark, Mel Stride and Rishi Sunak presented a Bill to make provision, where two or more hereditaments occupied or owned by the same person meet certain conditions as to contiguity, for those hereditaments to be treated for the purposes of non-domestic rating as one hereditament; and to increase the percentage by which a billing authority in England may increase the council tax payable in respect of a long-term empty dwelling.

Bill read the first time; to be read a second time tomorrow, and to be printed (Bill 192) with Explanatory Notes (Bill 192–EN).

7 Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Northern Ireland): Motion for leave to bring in a Bill (Standing Order No. 23)

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make provision for the marriage of same sex couples in Northern Ireland; to make provision in the law of Northern Ireland for the conversion of civil partnerships to marriages and for the review of civil partnership; to make provision for the legal recognition of the marriage of armed forces personnel overseas and of other marriages solemnised outside Northern Ireland; and for connected purposes;

That Conor McGinn, Wes Streeting, Karin Smyth, Ged Killen, Yvette Cooper, Owen Smith, Layla Moran, Caroline Lucas, Nicky Morgan, Justine Greening, Nick Herbert and Ms Angela Eagle present the Bill.

Conor McGinn accordingly presented the Bill.

Bill read the first time; to be read a second time on Friday 11 May, and to be printed (Bill 193).

8 Drinking Water Directive (Reasoned Opinion)

Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 119(11)), That this House takes note of European Union Document No. 5846/18 and Addenda 1 to 5, Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast); considers that the proposal does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity for the reasons set out in the annex to the Eighteenth Report of Session 2017-19 of the European Scrutiny Committee (HC 301-xviii); and, in accordance with Article 6 of Protocol No. 2 annexed to EU Treaties on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, instructs the Clerk of the House to forward this reasoned opinion to the Presidents of the European Institutions.—(*Rebecca Harris.*)

Question agreed to.

9 Statutory Instruments: Motions for Approval

(1) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) (Custodial Premises) Subordinate Provisions Order 2018, which was laid before this House on 22 January, be approved.—(*Rebecca Harris.*)

Question agreed to.

(2) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018, which were laid before this House on 20 February, be approved.—(*Rebecca Harris.*)

Question agreed to.

(3) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Regulations 2018, which were laid before this House on 5 February, be approved.—(*Rebecca Harris.*)

Question agreed to.

(4) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Insolvency of Registered Providers of Social Housing Regulations 2018, which were laid before this House on 7 February, be approved.—(*Rebecca Harris.*)

Question agreed to.

(5) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Finance Act 2003, Part 3 (Amendment) Order 2018, which was laid before this House on 5 March, be approved.—(*Rebecca Harris.*)

Question agreed to.

(6) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Scottish Rates of Income Tax (Consequential Amendments) Order 2018, which was laid before this House on 12 March, be approved.—(*Rebecca Harris.*)

Question agreed to.

10 Opposition Day: Leader of the Opposition (unallotted day (Order, 27 March))

(1) Local government funding

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House believes that local government has severely suffered as a result of almost eight years of brutal and devastating cuts; notes with concern that the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that between 2010 and 2020 local government will have had direct funding cut by 79 per cent; is concerned that the top ten most deprived councils in England are set to see cuts higher than the national average, with nine on course for cuts more than three times higher than the national average; believes there is a risk that services and councils are reaching a financial breaking point; calls on the Government to act on the warnings of the National Audit Office and initiate a review into the funding of local government to ensure that the sector has sustainable funding for the long term and to immediately provide more resources to prevent more authorities following Conservative-run Northamptonshire into effective bankruptcy; and further calls on the Government to report to the House by Oral Statement and written report before 19 April 2018 on what steps it is taking to comply with this resolution.—(*Andrew Gwynne.*)

The Deputy Speaker announced a time limit on backbench speeches (Standing Order No. 47(1)).

Question put.

The House divided.

Division No. 134.

Ayes: 238 (Tellers: Thangam Debbonaire, Jeff Smith)

Noes: 0 (Tellers: Mr Paul Sweeney, Martin Whitfield)

Question accordingly agreed to.

Resolved, That this House believes that local government has severely suffered as a result of almost eight years of brutal and devastating cuts; notes with concern that the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that between 2010 and 2020 local government will have had direct funding cut by 79 per cent; is concerned that the top ten most deprived councils in England are set to see cuts higher than the national average, with nine on course for cuts more than three times higher than the national average; believes there is a risk that services and councils are reaching a financial breaking point; calls on the Government to act on the warnings of the National Audit Office and initiate a review into the funding of local government to ensure that the sector has sustainable funding for the long term and to immediately provide more resources to prevent more authorities following Conservative-run Northamptonshire into effective bankruptcy; and further calls on the Government to report to the House by Oral Statement and written report before 19 April 2018 on what steps it is taking to comply with this resolution.

(2) Police funding

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House asserts that the loss of 21,000 police officers, 18,000 police staff and 6,800 police community support officers since 2010 in addition to the reduction in the number of armed officers has damaged community safety and public security; is concerned that central government funding to local police forces will fall in real terms for the eighth consecutive year in 2018-19 and

in addition that there will be a £54m shortfall in funding for counter-terror policing; notes with alarm the assessment of the National Police Chiefs Council that this will mean tough choices for policing in the year ahead; supports the conclusion of the UK Statistics Authority that the Prime Minister could have led the public to conclude incorrectly that the Government were providing an additional £450m for police spending in 2018-19; and calls on the Government to take steps to increase officer numbers by 10,000 and to fulfil the full counter-terrorism policing requirements laid out by police chiefs for the year ahead and to report to the House by Oral Statement and written report before 19 April 2018 on what steps it is taking to comply with this resolution.—(*Louise Haigh.*)

The Deputy Speaker announced a time limit on backbench speeches (Standing Order No. 47(1)).

Question put.

The House divided.

Division No. 135.

Ayes: 203 (Jeff Smith, Thangam Debbonaire)

Noes: 0 (Martin Whitfield, Mr Paul Sweeney)

Question accordingly agreed to.

Resolved, That this House asserts that the loss of 21,000 police officers, 18,000 police staff and 6,800 police community support officers since 2010 in addition to the reduction in the number of armed officers has damaged community safety and public security; is concerned that central government funding to local police forces will fall in real terms for the eighth consecutive year in 2018-19 and in addition that there will be a £54m shortfall in funding for counter-terror policing; notes with alarm the assessment of the National Police Chiefs Council that this will mean tough choices for policing in the year ahead; supports the conclusion of the UK Statistics Authority that the Prime Minister could have led the public to conclude incorrectly that the Government were providing an additional £450m for police spending in 2018-19; and calls on the Government to take steps to increase officer numbers by 10,000 and to fulfil the full counter-terrorism policing requirements laid out by police chiefs for the year ahead and to report to the House by Oral Statement and written report before 19 April 2018 on what steps it is taking to comply with this resolution.

11 Public petitions

(1) A public petition from residents of Ross, Skye and Lochaber relating to the Royal Bank of Scotland closure in Mallaig was presented and read by Ian Blackford.

(2) A public petition from residents of the Isle of Bute relating to Royal Bank of Scotland closure in Rothesay was presented and read by Brendan O'Hara.

12 Adjournment

Subject: Patient safety (Dr Caroline Johnson)

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.—(*Mike Freer.*)

Adjourned at 9.17 pm until tomorrow.

Other Proceedings

Lords Messages

13 Nuclear Safeguards Bill

The Lords agree to the Nuclear Safeguards Bill with amendments to which they desire the agreement of the Commons.

Printing of Lords Amendments

14 Nuclear Safeguards Bill

Lords Amendments to the Nuclear Safeguards Bill to be considered tomorrow, and to be printed (Bill 194) with Explanatory Notes (Bill 194–EN).

General Committees: Reports

15 Fifth Delegated Legislation Committee

Mr Laurence Robertson (Chair) reported the draft European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Work in Fishing Convention) Order 2018.

General Committees: Appointments

The Speaker appoints the Chair of General Committees and members of Programming Sub-Committees, and allocates Statutory Instruments to Delegated Legislation Committees.

The Selection Committee nominates Members to serve on General Committees (and certain Members to serve on Grand Committees).

16 Sixth Delegated Legislation Committee (draft Companies (Disclosure of Address) (Amendment) Regulations 2018)

Members: Mary Robinson discharged and Alex Chalk nominated in substitution.

17 European Committee A in respect of Council Decision 2017/971 of 8 June 2017 determining the planning and conduct arrangements for EU non-executive military CSDP missions and amending Decisions 2010/96/CFSP on a European Union military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces, 2013/34/CFSP on a European Union military mission to contribute to the training of the Malian armed forces, and (CFSP) 2016/610 on a European Union CSDP military training mission in the Central African Republic; European Union Documents No. 14866/17 Council Decision establishing Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and determining the list of participating Member States

Members: Rushanara Ali, Wayne David, Leo Docherty, Chris Elmore, Mr Mark Francois, Kate Green, Kirstene Hair, Darren Jones, Graham P Jones, Mark Lancaster, Andrew Lewer, Stewart Malcolm McDonald, Wendy Morton, Wes Streeting, Sir Robert Syms, Michael Tomlinson and Mrs Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

European Union Documents Referred

18 European Committee A

Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/340 of 6 March 2018 establishing the list of projects to be developed under PESCO; and Council Recommendation of 6 March 2018 concerning a roadmap for the implementation of PESCO

Reports from Select Committees

19 Backbench Business Committee

Determination of business to be taken on 17 and 19 April in the Chamber and 19 April in Westminster Hall, with Annex containing a transcript of representations made on 28 March, to be published (Ian Mearns).

20 Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

Fake news: Part of the written evidence, to be published (HC 363) (Damian Collins).

21 Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

(1) *Labour constraints*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 776);

(2) *Performance of the Rural Payments Agency*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 887);

(3) *Fur trade in the UK*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 823)
(Neil Parish).

22 European Scrutiny Committee

(1) Twenty-Second Report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 301-xxi);

(2) Twenty-Third Report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 301-xxii);

(3) *Ministerial correspondence*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 301)
(Sir William Cash).

23 Foreign Affairs Committee

Russian corruption and the UK: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 932) (Tom Tugendhat).

24 Health and Social Care Committee

(1) *Memorandum of understanding on data-sharing between NHS Digital and the Home Office*:

(i) Fifth Report, with an Appendix, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 677);

(ii) Written evidence, to be published (HC 677);

(2) *Correspondence to the Secretary of State relating to Brexit transitional arrangements*: Written evidence, to be published;

(3) *Integrated care: organisations, partnerships and systems*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 650)

(Dr Sarah Wollaston).

25 High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill (Select Committee on)

High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill: Oral and written Evidence, to be published (HC 927) (James Duddridge).

26 Home Affairs Committee

(1) *Work of the Home Secretary*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 434);

(2) *Hate crime and its violent consequences*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 683);

(3) *Policing for the future*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 515)

(Yvette Cooper).

27 Human Rights (Joint Committee on)

(1) *The right to freedom and safety: Reform of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 890);

(2) *Human rights: attitudes to enforcement*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 669)

(Ms Harriet Harman).

28 International Development Committee

The Independent Commission for Aid Impact's review on the UK aid response to global health threats: Oral evidence taken before the Sub-Committee on the Work of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, to be published (HC 801) (Paul Scully).

29 International Trade Committee

(1) *Trade and the Commonwealth: developing countries*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 667);

(2) *UK Trade Remedies Authority*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 743)

(Angus Brendan MacNeil).

30 Procedure Committee

Voting by proxy in the House of Commons: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 825) (Mr Charles Walker).

31 Public Accounts (Committee of)

(1) *Cyber-attack on the NHS*: Thirty-second Report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 787);

(2) *Research and development funding across government*: Thirty-third Report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 668);

(3) *Higher Education Market*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 693);

(4) *Private Finance Initiatives*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 894);

(5) *Brexit and the future of Customs*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 401);

(6) *Brexit and the UK border*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 558);

(7) *Tackling online VAT fraud*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 312)

(Meg Hillier).

32 Statutory Instruments (Joint Committee on)

Eighteenth Report, to be printed (HC 542-xviii) (Derek Twigg).

33 Treasury Committee

(1) *Women in finance*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 477);

(2) *Correspondence from the CEO of the Prudential Regulation Authority relating to the Solvency II directive*: Written evidence, to be published;

(3) *Correspondence with the Economic Secretary to the Treasury relating to the Financial Guidance and Claims Bill*: Written evidence, to be published;

(4) *Royal Bank of Scotland's Global Restructuring Group and its treatment of small and medium-sized enterprises*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 737)

(Nicky Morgan).

34 Women and Equalities Committee

Sexual harassment in the workplace: Oral and part of the written evidence, to be published (HC 725) (Mrs Maria Miller).

35 Work and Pensions Committee

(1) *European Social Fund*: Eighth report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 848);

(2) *Pension freedoms and choice*:

(i) Ninth report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 917);

(ii) Written evidence, to be published (HC 404);

(3) *Assistive technology*:

(i) Tenth report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 673);

(ii) Written evidence, to be published (HC 673);

(4) *Carillion*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 769);

(5) *Collective defined contribution pension schemes*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 580);

(6) *Defined benefit pension schemes*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 579);

(7) *Motability*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 847);

(8) *Pip and ESA assessments*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 355);

(9) *Universal Credit rollout*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 336)

(Frank Field).

John Bercow

Speaker

Westminster Hall

The sitting began at 9.30 am.

Business appointed by the Chairman of Ways and Means (Standing Order No. 10(6))

1 Social mobility and the economy

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House has considered social mobility and the economy.—(*Justine Greening.*)

The Chair announced a time limit on backbench speeches (under the authority of the Chairman of Ways and Means and Standing Order No. 47(1)).

Question again proposed.

At 11.30 am, the Motion lapsed (Standing Order No. 10(6)).

2 Promotion of legal services after the UK leaves the EU

Resolved, That this House has considered promotion of legal services after the UK leaves the EU.—(*Robert Neill.*)

The sitting was suspended between 11.29 am and 2.30 pm (Standing Order No. 10(1)(b)).

3 Recruitment and retention of GPs

Resolved, That this House has considered recruitment and retention of GPs.—(*Bridget Phillipson.*)

4 Unconditional university offers

Resolved, That this House has considered unconditional university offers.—(*Matt Warman.*)

5 Upgrades to the Cotswold line

Resolved, That this House has considered upgrades to the Cotswold line.—(*Robert Courts.*)

Sitting adjourned without Question put (Standing Order No. 10(14)).

Adjourned at 5.18 pm until tomorrow.

Lindsay Hoyle

Chairman of Ways and Means

Papers Laid

Papers subject to Affirmative Resolution

1 Capital Gains Tax

(1) Draft Double Taxation Relief (Switzerland) Order 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Mel Stride)

(2) Draft Double Taxation Relief (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) Order 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Mel Stride)

2 Constitutional Law

Draft Welsh Ministers (Transfer of Functions) Order 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Alun Cairns)

3 Immigration

(1) Draft Immigration (Alcohol Licensing and Late Hours Catering) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Amber Rudd)

(2) Draft Special Immigration Appeals Commission (Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary David Gauke)

4 Landfill Tax

Landfill Tax (Disposals of Material) Order 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 442), dated 28 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Robert Jenrick)

Papers subject to Negative Resolution

5 Education

Education (Student Support) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 443), dated 28 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Sam Gyimah)

6 Electronic Communications

Electronic Communications (Broadband) (Universal Service) Order 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 445), dated 28 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum and an Impact Assessment (by Command) (Secretary Matt Hancock)

7 Environmental Protection

(1) Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 428), dated 21 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Greg Clark)

(2) Radioactive Contaminated Land (Enabling Powers and Modification of Enactments) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 429), dated 21 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Greg Clark)

8 Family Proceedings

Family Procedure (Amendment) Rules 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 440), dated 27 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary David Gauke)

9 Health and Safety

Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 430), dated 21 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Richard Harrington)

10 Road Traffic

HGV Road User Levy (Rate for Prescribed Vehicles) Regulations 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 417), dated 26 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Chris Grayling)

11 Sea Fisheries

Sea Fish (Marketing Standards) (England and Wales and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2018 (S.I., 2018, No. 437), dated 26 March 2018 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Michael Gove)

Other papers**12 Climate Change**

(1) Statement of Emissions for 2016 (by Act) (Secretary Greg Clark)

(2) The State of the Estate in 2016–17 (by Act) (Oliver Dowden)

13 Education

Explanatory Memorandum to the Education (Student Support) (Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provision) Regulations 2018 (laid 27 March 2018) (by Command) (Sam Gyimah)

14 Life Chances

Workless households and educational attainment statutory indicators (by Act) (Secretary Esther McVey)

15 National Audit

Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on Department for Transport: Investigation into the decision to cancel three rail electrification projects (by Act), to be printed (HC 835) (Clerk of the House)

16 Parliamentary Standards

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority: The Scheme of MP's Business Costs and Expenses 2018–19 (tenth edition) (by Act), to be printed (HC 876) (The Speaker)

17 Terrorism

Westminster Bridge terrorist attack – 22 March 2017: Operation Classific – A report on the use of terrorism legislation by Max Hill Q.C. (by Act) (Secretary Amber Rudd)

18 Transport

Report on the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation for 2016-17 (by Act) (Cm. 9583) (Secretary Chris Grayling)

19 UK Borders

- (1) Report of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: A re-inspection of Border Force's identification and treatment of potential victims of modern slavery for September–November 2017 (by Act) (Secretary Amber Rudd)
- (2) Report of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: An inspection of Border Force operations at Stansted Airport (by Act) (Secretary Amber Rudd)
- (3) Report of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: An inspection of exit checks for August–December 2017 (by Act) (Secretary Amber Rudd)
- (4) An inspection of how the Home Office considers the 'best interests' of unaccompanied asylum seeking children; August–December 2017 (by Act) (Secretary Amber Rudd)
- (5) Report of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: An inspection on the "Right to Rent" scheme (by Act) (Secretary Amber Rudd)

Withdrawn papers**20 Education**

Explanatory Memorandum to the Education (Student Support) (Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provision) Regulations 2018 (laid 27 March 2018)