



House of Lords
House of Commons
Joint Committee on
Human Rights

**Legislative Scrutiny:
Marine and Coastal Access
Bill; Government Response
to the Committee's
Thirteenth Report of
Session 2008–09**

**Twenty-first Report of Session 2008-
09**

Drawing special attention to:

Marine and Coastal Access Bill



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Thirteenth Report of
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*Report, together with formal minutes and
written evidence*

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Joint Committee on Human Rights

The Joint Committee on Human Rights is appointed by the House of Lords and the House of Commons to consider matters relating to human rights in the United Kingdom (but excluding consideration of individual cases); proposals for remedial orders, draft remedial orders and remedial orders.

The Joint Committee has a maximum of six Members appointed by each House, of whom the quorum for any formal proceedings is two from each House.

Current membership

HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Bowness
Lord Dubs
Lord Lester of Herne Hill
Lord Morris of Handsworth OJ
The Earl of Onslow
Baroness Prashar

HOUSE OF COMMONS

John Austin MP (Labour, *Erith & Thamesmead*)
Mr Andrew Dismore MP (Labour, *Hendon*) (Chairman)
Dr Evan Harris MP (Liberal Democrat, *Oxford West & Abingdon*)
Mr Virendra Sharma MP (Labour, *Ealing, Southall*)
Mr Richard Shepherd MP (Conservative, *Aldridge-Brownhills*)
Mr Edward Timpson MP (Conservative, *Crewe & Nantwich*)

Powers

The Committee has the power to require the submission of written evidence and documents, to examine witnesses, to meet at any time (except when Parliament is prorogued or dissolved), to adjourn from place to place, to appoint specialist advisers, and to make Reports to both Houses. The Lords Committee has power to agree with the Commons in the appointment of a Chairman.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Joint Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the two Houses. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the internet at www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/hrhome.htm.

Current Staff

The current staff of the Committee are: Mark Egan (Commons Clerk), Rebecca Neal (Lords Clerk), Murray Hunt (Legal Adviser), Angela Patrick and Joanne Sawyer (Assistant Legal Advisers), James Clarke (Senior Committee Assistant), Emily Gregory and John Porter (Committee Assistants), Joanna Griffin (Lords Committee Assistant) and Keith Pryke (Office Support Assistant).

Contacts

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Contents

Report	<i>Page</i>
Summary	3
Government Bills	5
1 Marine and Coastal Access Bill	5
2 Government Response to 13th Report	8
Written Evidence	9
Letter from Lord Hunt of Kings Heath to the Chairman, dated 14 May 2009	9
Letter from Lord Hunt of Kings Heath to Lord Pannick QC, dated 3 June 2009	9
<i>Part 9 (Coastal Access): Procedure for Consideration of Objections</i>	9
Letter from Lord Hunt of Kings Heath to Lord Pannick QC, dated 4 June 2009	11
<i>Compatibility with Article 6 ECHR</i>	15
<i>Safeguards</i>	15
Letter from Lord Hunt of Kings Heath to All Peers with an interest in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, dated 5 June 2009	16
<i>Government Amendments</i>	16
<i>Amendments Relating to Part 9 – Coastal Access</i>	16
Letter from the Chairman to Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, dated 19 December 2006	17
Letter from the Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP, Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs to the Chairman, dated 22 January 2007	22
Letter from the Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP to the Chairman, dated 27 February 2007	28
Letter from Rt Hon Jack Straw MP, Secretary of State for Justice, dated 30 June 2009	29
List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament	31

Summary

The Committee welcomes the Government's amendments to the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, which provide an opportunity for those affected by the proposed coastal path to challenge factual findings before an independent tribunal, as required by both Article 6(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights and the common law of procedural fairness. The Committee is satisfied that the Government's amendments render the Bill human rights compatible. It looks forward to the Government building on the solution found in this Bill when this frequently recurring human rights issue comes up again in other contexts.

