



HOUSE OF LORDS

House Committee

4th Report of Session 2007-08

Senior Management Restructure

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The House Committee

The House Committee is appointed each session to set the policy framework for the administration of the House and to provide non-executive guidance to the Management Board; to approve the House's strategic, business and financial plans; to agree the annual Estimates and Supplementary Estimates; to supervise the arrangements relating to Members' expenses; and to approve the House of Lords Annual Report.

Current membership

The members of the House Committee are:

- Baroness Ashton of Upholland
- Lord Baker of Dorking
- Lord Brabazon of Tara
- Lord Bradley
- Lord Craig of Radley
- Baroness D'Souza
- Baroness Hayman (*Chairman*)
- Baroness Hollis of Heigham
- Lord McNally
- Lord Strathclyde
- Lord Tordoff
- Lord Wakeham

General information

General information about the House of Lords and its committees is on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/lords/index.cfm>

Contacts for the House Committee

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The telephone number for enquiries regarding the Committee's work is 020 7219 6644.

**FOURTH REPORT OF SESSION 2007-08 FROM THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE**

SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

1. The Committee have considered proposals for changes in the structure of Black Rod's department and the management of the Refreshment Department, to take effect from Sir Michael Willcocks' retirement from the post of Black Rod in May 2009.
2. The Committee notes that the Clerk of the Parliaments has reviewed the responsibilities of Black Rod's post, and accepts his conclusion that a very significant increase in Black Rod's responsibilities has taken place in recent years, not least through the acquisition of additional buildings on the Parliamentary Estate and the heightened security needs.
3. It is, therefore, proposed that the senior management team should be strengthened with a new post of Director of Facilities. This would allow the post of Black Rod to focus on the traditional aspects of the role as Gentleman Usher, Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain and Serjeant at Arms, including security, order in the House, the doorkeepers, ceremonial duties, events, public access and the Sovereign's residual estate at Westminster. The new Director of Facilities would have responsibility for works, accommodation, facilities and services, and would also be the Management Board member responsible for the Refreshment Department.
4. Both Black Rod and the Director of Facilities would need to work closely together and to be easily and readily accessible and responsive to Members. Both post-holders would be members of the Management Board.
5. The Director of Facilities would need to have appropriate experience and expertise and the post is likely to be linked to a senior civil service grade. The cost of the new post of Director of Facilities will be in the order of £100,000 per annum, dependent upon advice on the grading of the post, and the background and experience of the individual recruited.
6. The Committee agreed to make the following recommendations to the House:
 - a) that a new post of Director of Facilities should be created, with responsibility for works, accommodation and certain facilities and services. The new post would also be the Management Board member responsible for the Refreshment Department. The post should report directly to the Clerk of the Parliaments.
 - b) that, following the appointment of a Director of Facilities, Black Rod should have responsibility for security, order in the House, ceremonial duties, events, public access and the doorkeepers, together with duties relating to the Sovereign's residual estate in the Palace of Westminster. The post-holder should continue to report directly to the Clerk of the Parliaments, and would be a member of the Management Board.

c) that the Head of Catering Services, who at present reports to the Director of Human Resources, should report in future to the new Director of Facilities.

7. The Committee agreed that, having made its recommendation in principle, it would return to the issue to consider in more detail the allocation of responsibilities between the two posts, and to note the revised management structure consequent on the changes.

8. The House is invited to agree to the recommendations in paragraph 6.

