Sanctions for Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Report
**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 financial support for Members; and to approve the House of Lords Annual Report.

**Current membership**

The members of the House Committee are:

- Lord Alderdice
- Lord Campbell-Savours
- Lord Cope of Berkeley
- Baroness D’Souza (*Chairman*)
- Lord Hill of Oareford
- Lord Laming
- Baroness McDonagh
- Baroness Royall of Blaisdon
- Lord Sewel
- Lord Stirrup
- Lord True
- Lord Wallace of Tankerness

**General information**

General information about the House of Lords and its committees is on the internet at:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees

**Contacts for the House Committee**

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the House Committee, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW.

The telephone number for enquiries regarding the Committee's work is 020 7219 6644.
Sanctions for Breaches of the Code of Conduct

1. We propose that the House should introduce two new sanctions for breaches of the Code of Conduct:
   (a) denial of access for a specified period to the system of financial support for Members; and
   (b) denial of access for a specified period to the facilities of the House.

2. The first would prevent a Member from claiming any money from the House.¹ The second would deny a Member access to the following: dining and banqueting facilities; car parking; the Library, including research services; ICT equipment, supplies, network accounts and support; bookable meeting rooms; individual desk space; personalised stationery; and pre-paid postage envelopes.

3. Unlike suspension, the new sanctions could be applied for any period of time because they are not linked to the Member’s writ of summons. If a Member was also suspended for breaching the Code, the new sanctions could be applied for a period longer than the suspension, so that the Member would continue to be denied access to financial support and facilities after returning to the House.

4. If the House agrees to this report, the sanctions would in future be available to the Committee for Privileges and Conduct to recommend to the House on a case-by-case basis. The sanctions would only be available in respect of misconduct which takes place after this report has been agreed by the House.

5. **We invite the House to make available to the Committee for Privileges and Conduct the two additional sanctions proposed in this report.**

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¹ The only exceptions would be additional expenses available to Members with a disability, and claims under the personal injury and travel insurance scheme for Members.