



HOUSE OF LORDS

Liaison Committee

1st Report of Session 2017–19

Review of Investigative Select Committee Activity in Session 2016–17

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Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee advises the House on the resources required for select committee work and allocates resources between select committees; reviews the select committee work of the House; considers requests for ad hoc committees and reports to the House with recommendations; ensures effective co-ordination between the two Houses; and considers the availability of Lords to serve on committees.

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Review of Investigative Select Committee Activity in Session 2016–17

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Introduction

1. The House of Lords has a wide range of select committees. The 2010–15 Parliament saw a considerable expansion in select committee activity, with an increase of *ad hoc* committees (from one to four each session) and the introduction of post-legislative scrutiny committees. There was a further expansion in the 2016–17 session with the establishment of a new sessional committee on International Relations. The result has been an unprecedentedly high level of committee activity.
2. In October 2015 the Liaison Committee announced a full review of the structure of investigative committees in the 2017–18 session. The Liaison Committee has carried out regular smaller scale reviews, and in recent years has adopted the practice of publishing a report focusing on the highlights of the previous session. The present report includes a highlights report for the 2016–17 session.

The Jellicoe Committee (1992) and subsequent developments

3. The full review will be the first such review since 1992. Following concerns about pressures on the committee resources of the House, which had briefly been considered by a working group in 1988, the Jellicoe Committee was established in 1991 to conduct the first comprehensive review of the use of committees in the House. It reported in 1992 and put forward proposals for a “more balanced and structured committee system”,¹ including a recommendation that *ad hoc* committees should become a regular part of the House’s work and that limited experiments should also be conducted with the use of public bill committees, special standing committees and a Delegated Powers Scrutiny Committee, which was accordingly established in 1992. For the first time, it also articulated the principle that select committees in the Lords should generally seek to complement rather than duplicate the work of those in the Commons.
4. When the Jellicoe Committee reported there were only two sessional investigative committees in the House of Lords. The European Communities Committee (now the European Union Committee) was established in 1974, and its success led to the establishment of the Science and Technology Committee in 1979. Following the establishment and subsequent expansion of the Delegated Powers Scrutiny Committee there was a pause in further committee developments until 2001, when the Select Committees on the Constitution and on Economic Affairs were first appointed. Since then further committees have been added to the structure: the Select Committee on the Merits of Statutory Instruments (now the Secondary Legislation

¹ Select Committee on the committee work of the house, *Volume I — Report* (Report of Session 1991–2, HL Paper 35–1), p 9

Scrutiny Committee), was first appointed in 2004 and the Communications Committee in 2007. As we have already seen, the 2010–15 Parliament saw further significant expansion and this was followed by the establishment of the International Relations Committee at the start of the 2016–17 session.

5. The time, therefore, was already ripe for the second full review of House of Lords Committee activity. The impact of the EU referendum result on the scrutiny work of the House of Lords has given this review added importance and timeliness. The present report provides useful background information for the review.

CHAPTER 2: SESSIONAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEES: ACTIVITY AND IMPACT

6. This chapter highlights some of the achievements of all the sessional investigative committees during the 2016–17 session. The European Union Committee and the Constitution Committee separately publish detailed reports about their activity during the previous session.
7. Following the decision reached in the June 2016 referendum that the UK should leave the EU, much committee activity focused on the possible impact of that decision. The session thus saw unprecedentedly high levels of committee activity, including engagement with the public by Twitter and other means.

Informal Brexit Liaison Group

8. This surge in activity brought with it a two-fold risk of duplication of effort and of matters ‘falling between the cracks’. At a meeting on 2 November, following discussions between the Chairman and the Chairmen of other Select Committees in the House of Lords, the Liaison Committee agreed to establish an informal group to help to co-ordinate and oversee committee activity in the House relating to Brexit and to keep in touch with Brexit scrutiny being carried out in House of Commons Committees. The Informal Brexit Liaison Group has since met six times, and will continue to meet in the new Parliament. The group is chaired by Liaison Committee Chairman and Senior Deputy Speaker Lord McFall of Alcluith, and brings together other House of Lords Committee chairmen. The group does not have any decision-making powers and reports regularly to the Liaison Committee about its work. Following each meeting of the informal group a minute of the discussions is posted on the parliamentary website.

Communications Committee

9. The Communications Committee conducted three substantive inquiries, and held a number of ‘one-off’ evidence sessions and visits, including an evidence session with the recently appointed Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP.² The Committee followed with particular interest the passage of the Digital Economy Act 2017, which made provisions about a number of issues raised in former and current inquiries and informal briefings.
10. The Committee concluded its inquiry on the future of Channel 4, by hearing from the Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP, the then Secretary of State, and published its report in July 2016.³ It found that the privatisation of Channel 4 would put its public service remit at risk and that this would outweigh any possible benefits. After holding the issue of privatisation under consideration for a number of months, Ms Bradley decided not to privatise. At the same time, she informed the Committee that she would hold a consultation on the case for relocating parts of Channel 4’s operations outside of London in order to increase its regional impact. Members of the Committee determined to follow this in the new Parliament.

2 Communications Committee, ‘Culture Secretary gives evidence to Committee’ (13 December 2016): <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/communications-committee/news-parliament-2015/press-regulation-impress-sos/>

3 Communications Committee, *A privatised future for Channel 4?* (1st Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 17)

11. The Committee undertook an inquiry on the subject of children’s use of the internet and reported in March 2017.⁴ It found that the current system whereby providers of online services are largely expected to regulate themselves is failing, and that there is widespread ignorance among children and parents of how the internet works. The Committee heard from a range of witnesses including from parents, via an online forum on Mumsnet, and children themselves—members of the Committee visited a primary school and at a meeting arranged by the Education Centre heard from secondary school children visiting Parliament. Shortly before publication, the Government announced that it had begun work to develop a new Internet Safety Strategy.⁵ The Committee welcomed this development but recommended that it should culminate in a code of conduct for internet services and that action should be taken forward by a champion within the heart of the Government. Other recommendations included the mandatory introduction of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education in schools.
12. The Committee’s final inquiry of the session examined the state of skills needed for the UK theatre industry, with a particular view to investigating possible routes into the industry for young people. The unexpected announcement of the dissolution of Parliament and the General Election cut short the Committee’s consideration of this topic, and so it decided to report a summary of the evidence that it had heard but not to make any recommendations.⁶ At the same time, it highlighted key areas of concern that merited further consideration, including an apparent lack of respect for the creative arts in the education system and lack of diversity among performers.
13. In the previous session the Committee had recommended that the next BBC Royal Charter should last for 11 years to decouple the Charter Review process from the general election cycle and to allow for full consultation and dialogue.⁷ Members therefore welcomed the inclusion of an 11-year period within the new BBC Charter which was adopted this session.⁸
14. The Committee had also previously reported on the state of press regulation after the Leveson Inquiry.⁹ Following the recognition of the IMPRESS as a press regulator, the Committee decided to hold a series of one-off evidence sessions with a number of prominent stakeholders.¹⁰

4 Communications Committee, *Growing up with the internet* (2nd Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 130)

5 Department of Culture, Media and Sport, ‘Government launches major new drive on internet safety’ (27 February 2017): <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-major-new-drive-on-internet-safety> [accessed 25 May 2017]

6 Communications Committee, *Skills for theatre: Developing the pipeline of talent* (3rd Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 170)

7 Communications Committee, *BBC Charter review: Reith not revolution* (1st Report, Session 2015–16, HL Paper 96)

8 HL Deb, 12 October 2016, [cols 1943–2000](#)

9 Communications Committee, *Press Regulation: where are we now?* (3rd Report, Session 2014–15, HL Paper 135)

10 Communications Committee ‘Hacked Off, IPSO and others discuss press regulation’ (6 December 2016): <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/communications-committee/news-parliament-2015/press-regulation-further-developments/>

Constitution Committee

15. The Constitution Committee published three reports connected to the UK's decision to leave the European Union. In its report, *The invoking of Article 50*, published on 13 September 2016, the Committee recommended that Parliament should play a central role in the decision to trigger Article 50, in the subsequent negotiation process, and in the approval or otherwise of the final terms under which the UK leaves the EU.¹¹ Following the Supreme Court judgement in *R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (2017) UKSC 5*¹² that primary legislation was required to invoke Article 50, the Committee reported on the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill.¹³
16. The Committee also considered the process for making UK law ready for Brexit in its report *The 'Great Repeal Bill' and delegated powers*.¹⁴ It acknowledged that the Government would need significant powers to convert and repeal EU law to make Brexit possible, but recommended that the scope of these needed to be limited as much as possible and that new processes would be required to ensure that Parliament had proper control and oversight of the powers. The Committee also made a series of detailed recommendations about the format for the delegated powers that would follow the 'Great Repeal Bill' and highlighted the issues connected to devolution that the Government needed to address. The Government responded to some of these points in its white paper, *Legislating for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union*,¹⁵ and the Committee may return to these issues in the next Parliament.
17. During the 2015–16 session the Committee was asked by the then Leader of the House of Commons, Chris Grayling MP to consider the new English votes for English laws procedures in the House of Commons. The Committee published its report *English Votes for English Laws* in this session, examining the impact of the procedures so far, including their effect on the House of Lords and on Government, and their wider implications for the constitution as a whole, particularly regarding the devolution settlements.¹⁶
18. The Committee began a substantial inquiry on the Legislative Process, taking evidence on the preparation of legislation for Parliament and on delegated legislation, and may return to report on these themes in the next Parliament. The Committee also undertook a follow-up inquiry to its 2012 report on *Judicial Appointments*,¹⁷ and may report on its findings in the next Parliament.
19. As part of its legislative scrutiny work the Committee reported on five Government bills during the 2016–17 session, and corresponded with the Government on a further three. In its report on the *Wales Bill*, the Committee welcomed the decision to move the Welsh devolution settlement to a reserved

11 Constitution Committee, *The invoking of Article 50* (4th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 44)

12 The Supreme Court, *R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union*, **UKSC 5** (2017)

13 Constitution Committee, *European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill*, (8th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 119)

14 Constitution Committee, *The 'Great Repeal Bill' and delegated powers* (9th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 123)

15 Department for Exiting the European Union, *Legislating for the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union* CM 9446, March 2017: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604516/Great_repeal_bill_white_paper_accessible.pdf [accessed 3 July 2017]

16 Constitution Committee, *English votes for English laws* (6th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 61)

17 Constitution Committee, *Judicial Appointments* (25th Report, Session 2010–12, HL Paper 272)

powers model, but raised a number of concerns about the shortcomings of its implementation.¹⁸ In particular the Committee noted that attempting to put the Sewel Convention into the legislation risked inappropriately drawing the courts into disputes about law making; a point which was borne out by the arguments made during *R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union* (2017) UKSC 5.¹⁹

20. The Committee received delayed Government responses to its reports on *The Union and devolution*²⁰ and *Inter-governmental relations in the United Kingdom*.²¹ A debate is expected on these reports and responses in the new Parliament.
21. The Committee held annual evidence sessions with the Chairman of the House of Lords Appointments Commission,²² the Minister for the Constitution,²³ the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice,²⁴ the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales,²⁵ and the President and Deputy President of the Supreme Court.²⁶

Economic Affairs Committee

22. The Economic Affairs Committee conducted two substantive inquiries (on the housing market and energy policy), began an inquiry on Brexit and the Labour Market, and held a number of ‘one-off’ evidence sessions.
23. The Committee’s report on the housing market was published in July 2016. The Committee received over 170 pieces of written evidence and heard from 50 witnesses. The report concluded that successive governments had failed to build enough homes and the current target of one million new homes by 2020 was insufficient. The Committee recommended a series of interventions to improve building rates including: allowing greater building by local authorities; increased funding for planning departments; building on public land; and changes to property taxation.²⁷
24. The Government’s White Paper, *Fixing Our Broken Housing Market*, took up some of the Committee’s recommendations, in particular, allowing local authorities to increase and retain the income from planning fees; and plans to relax the requirements for public bodies to achieve ‘best value’ when selling land.²⁸ In the debate on the report the Minister suggested that the

18 Constitution Committee, *Wales Bill* (5th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 59)

19 The Supreme Court, *R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union*, UKSC 5 (2017)

20 Constitution Committee, *The Union and devolution* (10th Report, Session 2015–16, HL Paper 149)

21 Constitution Committee, *Inter-governmental relations in the United Kingdom* (11th Report, Session 2014–15, HL Paper 146)

22 Oral evidence taken before the Constitution Committee, 18 January 2017 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–12](#) (Rt Hon Professor Lord Kakkar, Chairman, House of Lords Appointments Commission)

23 Oral evidence taken before the Constitution Committee, 8 March 2017 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–8](#) (Chris Skidmore MP, Parliamentary Secretary (Minister for the Constitution), Cabinet Office)

24 Oral evidence taken before the Constitution Committee, 1 March 2017 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–14](#) (Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice)

25 Oral evidence taken before the Constitution Committee, 22 March 2017 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–13](#) (Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales)

26 Oral evidence taken before the Constitution Committee, 29 March 2017 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–12](#) (Rt Hon Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, President, Supreme Court and Rt Hon Baroness Hale of Richmond, Deputy President, Supreme Court)

27 Economic Affairs Committee, *Building more homes* (1st Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 20)

28 DCLG, *Fixing our broken housing market*, Cm 9352, February 2017, p 37: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/590464/Fixing_our_broken_housing_market_-_print_ready_version.pdf [05 June 2017]. The White Paper states that “The House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee highlighted the under-resourcing of planning departments in its report”.

Government was “taking forward measures that fit with over half of the committee’s 13 final recommendations.”²⁹

25. The Committee’s second inquiry of the session was on the UK energy market. The Committee concluded that interventions and in particular policies designed to assist renewable energy had increased energy costs. The report recommended that the Government should give explicit priority to ensuring a secure energy supply and reform the market to reduce state involvement.³⁰
26. The Committee began a third inquiry: *Brexit and the Labour Market*. The Committee did not conclude this inquiry before the dissolution of Parliament and may return to the topic in the 2017–2018 session.
27. The Committee held evidence sessions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Governor of the Bank of England. The Chancellor’s appearance was his first before any parliamentary committee after his appointment.³¹ In October the Committee held an evidence session with the Governor of the Bank of England to examine the Bank’s response to the referendum result.³² In this session the Committee also questioned the Governor about his future plans prompting speculation about his departure date.³³
28. The Committee heard evidence on the sustainability of the student loan system and a proposed sale of student loans.³⁴ The Committee also held a very well attended session on distributed ledger technologies (the technology that underlies the ‘bitcoin’ digital currency and has potential applications in the financial and regulatory sectors).³⁵

Finance Bill Sub-Committee

29. The Finance Bill Sub-Committee conducted an inquiry on the draft Finance Bill 2017. The Sub-Committee chose to consider the clauses in the draft Bill relating to the Government’s policy to ‘Make Tax Digital’ for businesses and the self-employed. These clauses required businesses to keep tax records digitally using software compatible with HMRC’s systems, submit information quarterly to HMRC, and prepare an annual digital tax return.
30. The Sub-Committee received 68 written submissions and heard oral evidence from 15 witnesses. The Committee concluded that the estimates provided by HMRC of the policy’s benefits were “very fragile and little more than guess work.”³⁶ The Sub-Committee concluded that the Government

29 HL Deb, 2 March 2017, [col 1033](#)

30 Economic Affairs Committee, *The Price of Power: reforming the electricity market* (2nd Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 113)

31 Oral evidence taken before the Economic Affairs Committee, 8 September 2016 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–21](#) (Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP)

32 Oral evidence taken before the Economic Affairs Committee, 25 October 2016, (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–13](#) (Dr Mark Carney)

33 Oral evidence taken before the Economic Affairs Committee, 25 October 2016, (Session 2016–17), [Q 2](#) (Dr Mark Carney). The Governor told the Committee that any decision about his future was “entirely personal” and he would take a decision by Christmas 2016. A few days later, after speculation, the Governor announced he would step down in 2019.

34 Oral evidence taken before the Economic Affairs Committee, 5 July 2016, (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–43](#) (Mr Nick Hillman and Dr Gavan Conlon; Mr Steve Lamey, Dr Philippa Lloyd and Ms Anne Spinali)

35 Oral evidence taken before the Economic Affairs Committee, 19 July 2016, (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1–18](#) (Dr Ben Broadbent; Dr Catherine Mulligan, The Lord Spens and Professor Michael Mainelli; Mr Simon Taylor and Ms Blythe Masters)

36 Economic Affairs Committee, *Draft Finance Bill 2017: Making Tax Digital for Business* (3rd Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 137)

and businesses needed more time to prepare for digitalisation. The Sub-Committee recommended that the Government delay the implementation of the policy; extend the proposed pilot period; and exempt businesses with a turnover below the VAT threshold.

31. The Government amended the draft Finance Bill to remove the clauses related to Making Tax Digital.³⁷ In a letter to the Chairman the Financial Secretary to the Treasury confirmed that “while the Government remain committed to the digital future of the tax system, we recognise the need for Parliament to consider such measures properly. That is why the Government has decided to pursue Making Tax Digital in a Finance Bill in the next Parliament”.³⁸
32. On 13 July the Government announced substantial changes to the policy including: a delay in the mandatory start date; the exemption of businesses below the VAT threshold; and the extension of the pilot period until 2020. These changes all accord with the Committee’s recommendations.³⁹
33. The Finance Bill Sub-Committee made efforts to broaden the evidence base for this inquiry beyond tax specialists. To this end the Outreach and Engagement service sent a simplified version of the call for evidence to nearly 2000 business contacts; a twitter video explaining the Sub-Committee’s work was prepared;⁴⁰ and key sector’s publications were targeted by the press team. The number of written submissions received was treble the total for 2015–16 and a large number of these submissions were from small businesses and ‘high-street’ accountancy firms. The Sub-Committee prioritised oral evidence from businesses and those who had not given evidence before.

European Union Committee

34. The EU Select Committee and its sub-committees undertook an exceptionally busy work programme in the aftermath of the 23 June 2016 referendum on UK membership of the EU. In its July 2016 report on *Scrutinising Brexit: the role of Parliament*, the Committee listed 29 Brexit-related “key themes”, and set out its aim to produce short reports analysing each of them in turn.⁴¹
35. The level of resulting activity is underlined by the fact that the Select Committee alone held 42 formal meetings during the session. Twenty reports were published across the EU Committees, the highest total since the two-year 2010 session, and another four were approaching completion when the session came to an early close. Of the 20 reports, 17 were Brexit-themed.
36. The EU Select Committee was the first committee of either House to take evidence from the newly appointed Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Rt Hon David Davis MP, in September 2016. During the meeting Mr Davis gave an undertaking that the UK Government, in sharing information on Brexit with Parliament, would “certainly match

37 These were among approximately 70 clauses removed from the Bill to ensure it passed prior to prorogation.

38 Letter from Jane Ellison MP to Lord Hollick, 26 April 2017: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/economic-affairs-finance-bill/Letter-from-Jane-Ellison-MP-to-Chairman,-26-April-2017.pdf>

39 HC Deb, 13 July 2017, [Col 11WS](#)

40 @LordsEconComEconomic, 16 March 2017: <https://twitter.com/LordsEconCom/status/842344961030918144> [accessed May 2017]

41 European Union Committee, *Scrutinising Brexit: the role of Parliament* (1st Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 33)

and, hopefully, improve on what the European Parliament sees”.⁴² That undertaking has been repeated subsequently, and the Committee continues to seek confirmation from the Government of the processes for conducting parliamentary scrutiny of the Brexit negotiations.

37. In December 2016 the Committee launched ‘Brexit week’—the unprecedented publication of six reports on six successive days. Their publication was accompanied by a sustained Twitter campaign, and the level of media coverage can be illustrated by the creation of a bespoke ‘Lords Brexit reports’ section in *The Guardian*.⁴³ There were more than 500 pieces of media coverage over the week.
38. Among the Committee’s Brexit reports were three addressing what are widely acknowledged to be the key issues to be addressed in any withdrawal agreement. The Select Committee’s report on *Brexit: UK-Irish relations*, outlined the implications of Brexit for Ireland, North and South.⁴⁴ It was launched simultaneously in London and Dublin, and was described by Richard Curran in the *Irish Independent* as signalling a “sea change in Anglo-Irish relations”.⁴⁵ The report was covered more than 60 times by the Irish media in the week following publication. It contributed to what is now a widespread recognition, in both the UK and the EU, that mitigating the impact of Brexit upon the Irish land border and the peace process should be a priority in the withdrawal negotiations.
39. The Justice Sub-Committee addressed the rights of individual EU and UK citizens in its report on *Brexit: acquired rights*, calling on the Government to give a unilateral guarantee to the three million EU citizens lawfully resident in the UK that their rights will be maintained post-Brexit. This has now been identified by both sides as a key issue in the first stage of withdrawal negotiations.
40. The Financial Affairs Sub-Committee’s report on *Brexit and the EU budget*, which discussed the UK’s liability for outstanding financial obligations under the EU budget, appeared in March 2017 and received intense media coverage. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said on the Today programme that the report would “certainly inform the discussion that we are going to have”.⁴⁶
41. The EU Committees also addressed wider questions of UK-EU relations post-Brexit. The Home Affairs Sub-Committee’s report on police and security⁴⁷ asked how the Government’s desire to continue to cooperate and share data with EU partners on internal security could be reconciled with

42 European Union Committee, *Brexit: parliamentary scrutiny* (4th Report, Session 2016–17 HL Paper 50), paragraph 47

43 The Guardian, ‘Lords Brexit reports’: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/lords-brexit-reports> [accessed 23 May 2017]

44 European Union Committee, *Brexit: UK-Irish relations* (6th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 76)

45 ‘Richard Curran: Brexit Border call by UK House of Lords a sign of sea change in Anglo-Irish relations’, *Independent.ie*, (15 December 2016): <http://www.independent.ie/opinion/comment/richard-curran-brexit-border-call-by-uk-house-of-lords-a-sign-of-sea-change-in-angloirish-relations-35294505.html> [accessed 23 May 2017]

46 ‘May “cannot guarantee immigration will be significantly lower after Brexit” - as it happened’, *The Guardian* (29 March 2017): <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/blog/live/2017/mar/29/brexit-theresa-may-triggers-article-50-politics-live?page=with:block-58db6087e4b007e8557f0a36> [accessed 23 May 2017]

47 European Union Committee, *Brexit: future UK-EU security and police cooperation* (7th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 77)

its goal of bringing to an end the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union (which oversees EU justice and home affairs mechanisms such as the European Arrest Warrant). The Chair of the Bar, Andrew Langdon QC, giving evidence later in the session, judged that the committee had “captured the position very well”⁴⁸

42. The Committee began the task of analysing the options available to the Government in ‘repatriating’ what are currently EU competences to the national level. The Home Affairs Sub-Committee, for instance, explored how the UK may be able to manage migration to and from the EU post-Brexit,⁴⁹ while the Energy and Environment Sub-Committee reviewed the future of UK environment and climate change policies, as well as fisheries and agriculture.⁵⁰ In all these reports, the EU Committees sought to explore the opportunities to develop bespoke policies for the UK (and for its nations and regions), while continuing to cooperate with the EU on issues that transcend national boundaries.
43. Brexit required the Committee to find new and flexible ways of working. For instance, the External Affairs and Internal Market Sub-Committees undertook a joint inquiry on options for future UK-EU trade, leading to the publication, as part of ‘Brexit week’ in December 2016, of a report on *Brexit: the options for trade*.⁵¹ The Sub-Committees then followed up this high-level review with separate but coordinated inquiries into trade in goods and trade in non-financial services, giving key sectors of the economy the chance to put their concerns and priorities on record.⁵²
44. Brexit placed unique demands upon the Committee, as it did upon Government, and the Committee therefore decided shortly after the referendum to adopt a light touch in its scrutiny of new EU proposals. The proportion of deposited documents sifted for detailed examination by sub-committees, normally involving correspondence with ministers, fell from just under 30% in 2015–16 to around 20%. The Committee also took account of the UK’s changed circumstances in not publishing any reports recommending UK ‘opt-ins’ to justice and home affairs measure, or any reports proposing the adoption of ‘reasoned opinions’ on subsidiarity.
45. At the same time, the Committee sought to intensify its ongoing interparliamentary engagement. The Committee was represented at EU-level interparliamentary conferences, such as the Conference of European Affairs Committees of National Parliaments of the EU (COSAC), which was held in The Hague in June 2016 and in Bratislava in November, and bilateral meetings were held, both in London and in other capitals, with colleagues from the French Sénat, the German Bundesrat, the Dutch Tweede Kamer, the Irish Oireachtas, the Latvian Seimas, the Danish Folketing and the Portuguese Assembleia.

48 Oral evidence taken before the European Union Home Affairs Sub-Committee, 29 March 2017 (Session 2016–17) [Q 12](#) (The Rt Hon Professor Sir Francis Jacobs, Professor Sir Alan Dashwood QC, Andrew Langdon, Dr Anna Bradshaw, Rosemary Davidson)

49 European Union Committee, *Brexit: UK-EU movement of people* (14th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 121)

50 European Union Committee, *Brexit: fisheries* (8th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 78), *Brexit: environment and climate change* (12th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 109) and *Brexit: agriculture* (20th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 169)

51 European Union Committee, *Brexit: the options for trade* (5th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 72)

52 European Union Committee, *Brexit: trade in goods* (16th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 129) and *Brexit: trade in non-financial services* (18th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 135)

46. The Committee also focused on intra-UK interparliamentary relations, with the Select Committee making visits in the course of the session to Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh, and launching an inquiry (unfinished at the time of dissolution) into the impact of Brexit upon devolution.

International Relations Committee

47. The International Relations Committee conducted two inquiries in the 2016–17 session: UK priorities for the new UN Secretary-General and the transformation of power in the Middle East and implications for UK policy. The Committee also held a ‘one-off’ evidence session with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Baroness Scotland QC.⁵³
48. The Committee’s report on the UN was published in November 2016, having taken evidence from former UK ambassadors to the United Nations and International Organisations; former UN officials; and Foreign Office Ministers. The report concluded the UK government should be congratulated in supporting a more transparent appointment process for the position, but should go further in reviewing and proposing a more rigorous selection procedure for the other heads of agencies across the system. The Committee recommended that making the UN fit-for-purpose would require renewed support for the international rules-based system, particularly post-Brexit; further investment in peacekeeping operations, including support for the preventing sexual violence in conflict initiative; and streamlining the UN development system.⁵⁴ The Government agreed with many of the Committee’s conclusions and recommendations, including committing to a more transparent and open selection process for the senior roles within the UN. The findings of the report were discussed in two events: a seminar for students and open to the public and a Global Strategy Forum event.
49. The committee’s second, and substantive, inquiry of the session was on the Transformation of Power in the Middle East and implications on UK policy. The wide-ranging report recommendations included an appraisal of the traditional UK stance with the US and a more robust position on Israeli infringements of international law. The report received significant media attention both domestically and overseas.⁵⁵ As part of its evidence, the Committee held a roundtable with students from the region and the findings of the report were again discussed in an open seminar and a Global Strategy Forum.
50. The Committee held evidence sessions with the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for the Department of International Trade, the Minister of State for the Department of International Development, and the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa.⁵⁶ The Committee also hosted a private meeting with HRH King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein of Jordan in March 2017.

53 Oral evidence taken before the International Relations Committee, 20 July 2016 (Session 2016–17) [QQ 1-7](#) (Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC)

54 International Relations Committee, *The UK and the UN: Priorities for the new Secretary-General* (1st Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 60)

55 International Relations Committee, *The Middle East: Time for New Realism* (2nd Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 159)

56 Oral evidence taken before the International Relations Committee, 26 January 2017 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 134-147](#) (Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP); 15 March 2017 (Session 2016–17) [QQ 208-217](#) (Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP); 8 March 2017 (Session 2016–17) [QQ 196-207](#) (Rory Stewart OBE MP); 2 March 2017 (Session 2016–17) [QQ 190-195](#) (Tobias Ellwood MP)

51. The Government response to the report was received on 3 July 2017 and the debate took place on 4 July 2017.

Science and Technology Committee

52. The Science and Technology Committee produced three reports. The first, *A time for boldness: EU membership and UK science after the referendum*,⁵⁷ was a follow up to the Committee's earlier report on EU membership and UK science.⁵⁸ The core question that the Committee sought to answer was: what actions are needed to ensure UK science continues to flourish as the UK negotiates its exit from the EU and, thereafter, plays an even stronger role in the international competitiveness of the UK? The Committee's second report was *Connected and Autonomous Vehicles: The future?*⁵⁹ The Committee carried out this inquiry because it recognised that this was an area in which technology was developing at a rapid pace and where the Government needed to make policy and investment decisions to enable the UK to receive the maximum possible economic benefit. The Committee's third report, *Nuclear research and technology: Breaking the cycle of indecision*,⁶⁰ was the latest instalment in the Committee's work on civil nuclear policy. The Committee investigated the developments that have taken place since its 2011 report, *Nuclear Research and Development Capabilities*,⁶¹ and considered what more needs to be done to ensure the UK can meet its future nuclear energy requirements.
53. The Committee's investigation on EU membership and UK science after the referendum ran from July to December 2016. The Committee did not issue a formal call for written evidence but drew on the evidence that had been submitted for its earlier report. fourteen witnesses gave oral evidence, including representatives from universities, research councils, industry and the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation. One of the central recommendations of the Committee's report was that the new UK Research and Innovation should search the world for outstanding scientific leaders, and attract them to the UK with compelling offers of research funding for their first 10 years in the UK and support for their immediate families as they settle into the UK. This was featured in the 2017 Budget: "The government will invest over £100 million over the next 4 years to attract the brightest minds to the UK, to help maintain the UK's position as a worldleader in science and research."⁶² The report was debated in the House on 23 March 2017 and was widely praised. Lord Mendelsohn said:

57 Science and Technology Committee, *A time for boldness: EU membership and UK science after the referendum* (1st Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 85)

58 Science and Technology Committee, *EU membership and UK science* (2nd Report, Session 2015–16, HL Paper 127)

59 Science and Technology Committee, *Connected and Autonomous Vehicles: The future?* (2nd Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 115)

60 Science and Technology Committee, *Nuclear research and technology: Breaking the cycle of indecision* (3rd Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 160)

61 Science and Technology Committee, *Nuclear Research and Development Capabilities* (3rd Report, Session 2010–12, HL Paper 221)

62 HM Treasury, Spring Budget 2017 (8 March 2017): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spring-budget-2017-documents> [accessed 23 May 2017]

“I congratulate the committee on an outstanding report. Its extraordinary strength is only complemented by its remarkably few pages. It is extremely well judged. It makes all the right points with tremendous force in a very brief summary. I have recommended it to far more people to add to their papers and to what they read from this House. It is one of the greatest summations of where we are at the moment and a very good road map of where we need to be.”⁶³

54. The Committee’s second inquiry, on autonomous vehicles, ran from September 2016 to March 2017. The Committee recommended that the Government should broaden its focus so that its work on Connected and Autonomous Vehicles cuts across all sectors and does not focus so heavily on highly-automated private road vehicles. 88 written submissions were received. Oral evidence was heard from 33 witnesses including representatives from industry, local government, academics, the European Commission, the Minister for Climate Change and Industry and the Minister of State, Department for Transport. The report received a large amount of coverage in print, across broadcast and especially in motoring trade outlets who had taken a keen interest throughout the inquiry. BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme held an in depth discussion with Professor Paul Newman, a leading academic in the field, who praised and welcomed the recommendations of the report.
55. The Committee’s nuclear inquiry which ran from January to May 2017 found that the Government must decide whether the UK should be a designer, manufacturer and operator of nuclear generation technology or alternatively whether it should restrict its interest to being an operator of equipment supplied by others from overseas. The Committee warned that not making a timely decision could have serious consequences. The Committee also recommended that the Government should immediately convene a working group of industry and government representatives to develop a plan to preserve the essential benefits of Euratom membership when the UK leaves the EU. 53 written submissions were received and the Committee heard oral evidence from 17 witnesses including industry representative bodies, academics, Government advisory bodies, the nuclear regulator and the Minister for Energy and Industry.
56. In addition to its formal inquiries, the Committee conducted a short investigation into the future of Innovate UK. It heard oral evidence from 10 witnesses and the Chairman wrote to the Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation setting out the Committee’s views.⁶⁴ The Committee also heard oral evidence from 12 witnesses on the Government’s Industrial Strategy Green Paper. The Chairman wrote to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy setting out what the Committee viewed as the key issues for the next Government as it develops the recent consultation into an effective Industrial Strategy.⁶⁵ A short investigation into Government funding of international development research and development was also carried out and the Chairman wrote to the Secretary of State for International Development urging her to give careful consideration to

63 HL Deb, 23 March 2017, [col 305](#)

64 Letter from the Earl of Selborne to Jo Johnson MP, 30 June 2016 (Session 2016–17): <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/science-technology/InnovateUK/2016-06-30-Future-of-InnovateUK-ltr-to-BIS-Minister.pdf>

65 Letter from the Earl of Selborne to the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, 2 May 2017 (session 2016–17): <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/science-technology/Industrial-strategy/2017-05-02-Industrial-strategy-ltr-to-BEIS-Secretary-of-state.pdf>

ensuring that the funding of international development research is joined up across Government.⁶⁶ One-off oral evidence sessions were held on regulation and standards post-Brexit⁶⁷ and with the interim Chief Executive, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Professor Sir Mark Walport FRS.⁶⁸

66 Letter from the Earl of Selborne to the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, 20 July 2016: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/science-technology/govt-funding-intl-develop-rd/2016-07-20-Intl-development-R-and-D-ltr-DfID.pdf>

67 Oral evidence taken before the Science and Technology Committee, 10 January 2017 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1-13](#) and [QQ 14-20](#) (Professor Guy Poppy, Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Dr Beth Thompson, Dr Scott Steedman CBE and Dr Martyn Sené)

68 Oral evidence taken before the Science and Technology Committee, 21 March 2017 (Session 2016–17), [QQ 1-10](#) (Professor Sir Mark Walport FRS and Rebecca Endean)

CHAPTER 3: AD HOC COMMITTEES

Select Committee on Charities

57. The Committee was established to consider “issues related to sustaining the charity sector and the challenges of charity governance”.⁶⁹ During the course of its inquiry, the Committee heard from 52 witnesses across 22 evidence sessions and received 184 submissions of written evidence. In order to ensure that smaller charities were involved in the inquiry, the Committee also convened three discussion groups—in London, Manchester and Cardiff—at which its members spoke with more than 40 trustees and staff from small charities.
58. On 26 March 2017, the Committee published its report, *Stronger charities for a stronger society*.⁷⁰ It concluded that charities play a fundamental role in civic life, not just by providing services and support, but also by inspiring, innovating and advocating for change. The report contained 58 conclusions and 42 recommendations, covering a wide range of issues affecting the charity sector. In particular:
- The Committee recommended improving local and national government commissioning processes to make them more accessible to charities. It also said that commissioners should take greater account of ‘social value’ when awarding contracts and that more consideration should be given to the sustainability of the organisations which they commission by funding justifiable core costs.
 - The Committee concluded that strong governance, with robust structures, processes and good behaviours, was essential for charities to deliver effectively for their beneficiaries. Its report recommended improved training and development for charity trustees, and called on the Government to consult on introducing a statutory duty to allow employees of organisations over a certain size to take a limited amount of time off work to perform trustee roles.
 - The report also called on the Government to improve the way it consults with the charity sector when developing new policies and respect the important advocacy role of charities. It recommended that an assessment should be made of the potential impact of Brexit on charities and that proposals should be developed to address any negative effects.
59. The report was received favourably, especially in the sector press. Commenting on the report, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) said: “This is a substantial, wide-ranging and important piece of work that should and will shape our sector going forward.”⁷¹

69 Select Committee on Charities, *Stronger Charities for a Stronger Society* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 133), p ii

70 Select Committee on Charities, *Stronger Charities for a Stronger Society* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 133)

71 NCVO, ‘The House of Lords report on charities: what you need to know’ (26 March 2017): <http://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2017/03/26/the-house-of-lords-report-on-charities-what-you-need-to-know> [accessed 05 June 2017]

Select Committee on Financial Exclusion

60. The Committee was appointed to “consider financial exclusion and access to mainstream financial services”.⁷² Its report,⁷³ published on 25 March 2017, was the culmination of an extensive inquiry during which the Committee heard from banks, credit providers, debt advice services, charities and regulators. The Committee visited Toynbee Hall, in east London, to speak directly with people who were affected by financial exclusion and debt, and also visited Coventry to hold talks with a range of support and advice services from across the city.
61. The Committee concluded that the current level of financial exclusion in the UK was unacceptable, especially in the light of the fact that the UK is a world leader in the financial services sector. The report, which made 22 recommendations, was received positively and enjoyed extensive print and broadcast media coverage. The Chairman was interviewed on the BBC Radio 4 ‘Moneybox’ programme and on BBC Breakfast. The presenter of ‘Moneybox’, the financial journalist Paul Lewis, spoke positively about a number of the recommendations and additional guests on the programme, including the Director of the Centre for Responsible Credit, also supported the findings of the Committee.
62. The Money Advice Trust, a charity providing debt support and advice described the Committee’s final report as an “important call-to-arms”⁷⁴ that should galvanise government, regulators and industry to take strong action to improve financial inclusion and access to financial services. The report was “warmly welcomed”⁷⁵ by the Financial Inclusion Commission, who suggested that the proposed legislative changes put forward by the Committee “would make significant improvements to the financial health of the nation”.⁷⁶
63. The Committee published an ‘Easy Read’ version of its report, helping to make the findings of the inquiry accessible to those with learning disabilities. This additional publication was in keeping with recommendations that the Committee made regarding the ways in which banks communicate with potentially vulnerable customers.
64. The Liberal Democrat manifesto for the 2017 General Election cited figures contained within the Committee report, before going on to give the following commitment:
- “To tackle the problem of financial exclusion the Liberal Democrats will take forward the recommendations of the House of Lords Select Committee on Financial Exclusion, in particular by expanding the Financial Conduct Authority’s remit to include a statutory duty to promote financial inclusion as one of its key objectives”.⁷⁷

72 Select Committee on Financial Exclusion, *Tackling financial exclusion: A country that works for everyone?* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 132), p ii

73 Select Committee on Financial Exclusion, *Tackling financial exclusion: A country that works for everyone?* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 132)

74 Money Advice Trust, ‘Charity welcomes “call-to-arms” on financial exclusion’: <http://www.moneyadvicetrust.org/media/news/Pages/Charity-welcomes-call-to-arms-on-financial-exclusion.aspx> [accessed 5 June 2017]

75 Financial Inclusion Commission, ‘Press Release: Government could improve the lives of millions of Britons facing financial exclusion by implementing recommendations from an influential House of Lords Select Committee report, according to The Financial Inclusion Commission’ (25 March 2017): <http://www.financialinclusioncommission.org.uk/news/32> [accessed 5 June 2017]

76 *Ibid.*

77 The Liberal Democrats Manifesto 2017, *Build an economy that works for you (2017)*: <http://www.libdems.org.uk/economy> [accessed on 05 June 2017].

Select Committee on the Long-term sustainability of the NHS

65. The Committee was appointed to “consider the long-term sustainability of the National Health Service”.⁷⁸ In an attempt to get beyond the debates about current funding shortages, the Committee focused its attention on the longer-term challenges facing the health service. As its inquiry developed, the Committee was also struck by the “inextricable link between the NHS and the provision of social care” and therefore concluded that it was “impossible” to investigate the NHS without also investigating social care.⁷⁹
66. The Committee heard evidence from over 100 oral witnesses and received over 180 written submissions, which amounted to half a million words of written evidence. Witnesses were drawn from a diverse range of organisations across the health and care landscape including from NHS England, the Department of Health, Health Education England, NHS Providers, the Patients Association, the Office for Budget Responsibility and the Department for Communities and Local Government.
67. The Committee published its report, *The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care*,⁸⁰ on 5 April 2017. The Committee concluded that a “culture of short-termism” prevailed in the NHS and adult social care. It recommended the establishment of an independent body—the Office for Health and Care Sustainability—to monitor the impact of changing demographic needs, the workforce and skills mix needs in the NHS and the stability of health and social care funding, providing much-needed forward thinking to help protect both services for the future.⁸¹
68. The Committee’s report made 34 recommendations in total. The Committee’s key conclusion—on the establishment of the Office for Health and Care Sustainability—was supported by an audit of independent public bodies, which was carried out by a Programme Director at the Institute for Government who was appointed as a second Specialist Advisor. The audit sought to establish how such an independent body might operate for the NHS and social care.
69. To help to highlight the report’s findings, the Chairman secured permission to produce a short film in St Thomas’ Hospital in which he explained the central recommendations of the report; this has been viewed more than 800 times on YouTube. The Committee’s work was welcomed by a number of high-profile health policy organisations including the King’s Fund⁸² and the Nuffield Trust.⁸³ An article by the Chairman on the report’s findings also featured on the Politics Home website.⁸⁴

78 Select Committee on The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS, *The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 151), p ii

79 Select Committee on The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS, *The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 151), p 10

80 Select Committee on The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS, *The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 151)

81 Select Committee on The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS, *The Long-term Sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 151), p 3

82 The King’s Fund, ‘House of Lords NHS report should be a ‘wake-up’ call to politicians’ (5 April 2017): <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/press/press-releases/long-term-sustainability-nhs> [accessed 5 June 2017]

83 Nuffield Trust, ‘Nuffield Trust experts respond to House of Lords Committee findings’ (5 April 2017): <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/nuffield-trust-experts-respond-to-house-of-lords-committee-findings> [accessed 5 June 2017]

84 Politics Home, ‘Lord Patel: Our culture of short-termism risks condemning our NHS to a dismal future’ (6 April 2017): <https://www.politicshome.com/news/uk/health-and-care/nhs/opinion/house-lords/84874/lord-patel-our-culture-short-termism-risks> [accessed 5 June 2017]

70. Radio 4's 'The Briefing Room' ran a special programme on the future of the NHS the day after the Committee published its report and opened the programme with an interview with the Chairman which set the scene for a wider discussion on NHS priorities and finances.

Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003 (post-legislative scrutiny)

71. The Committee was appointed on 25 May 2016 to "consider and report on the Licensing Act 2003". This was the sixth post-legislative scrutiny inquiry by a Lords Committee. The Committee reported on 21 March 2017, and its report was published on 4 April 2017.⁸⁵
72. The Committee heard oral evidence from 65 witnesses covering a broad spectrum of interests, including representatives from local government, breweries, retailers, residents' associations, clubs and the night-time economy, as well as health experts, the police and lawyers. The Committee also visited Southwark Borough Council to attend a meeting of the licensing sub-committee, and discussed the licensing process with the Chair of the licensing committee and licensing officers at the Council.
73. The inquiry was unlike previous post-legislative scrutiny inquiries. As the Committee said in the Summary of its report:
- "Previous committees of this House conducting scrutiny of statutes have found that the Act in question is basically satisfactory, but that its implementation is not. In the case of the Licensing Act our conclusion is that, while the implementation of the Act leaves a great deal to be desired, to a large extent this is caused by an inadequate statutory framework whose basic flaws have, if anything, been compounded by subsequent amendments. A radical overhaul is needed, and this is what our recommendations seek to achieve."⁸⁶
74. This is one of the reasons why the report was significantly longer than earlier such reports. The report contained 21 conclusions and 52 recommendations. One of the Committee's main conclusions was that planning committees are more effective and reliable than licensing committees, and that they should therefore take over the licensing function. The Committee therefore recommended that there should be a trial merger of licensing committees with planning committees.
75. In the three weeks following publication the report was covered 15 times in national newspapers (including the front page of the Daily Telegraph), 10 times in Scottish newspapers, and 16 times in the regional press. It was mentioned 10 times in broadcasts including interviews with the Chairman. It has also received very extensive coverage in the specialist press, and the Institute of Licensing has arranged a series of ten conferences to explain its effect to those involved in the licensing process. Coverage has mainly been favourable, although the Committee's recommendation regarding the amalgamation of licensing committees and planning committees has proved controversial with the Local Government Association. Despite this, one local authority has already made its licensing committee into a sub-committee of its planning committee (which is as far as it can go without primary legislation).

85 Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003, *The Licensing Act 2003: post-legislative scrutiny* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 146)

86 Select Committee on the Licensing Act 2003, *The Licensing Act 2003: post-legislative scrutiny* (Report of Session 2016–17, HL Paper 146), p 5

CHAPTER 4: DELEGATED LEGISLATION COMMITTEES

Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

76. The Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (JCSI) is one of the oldest scrutiny committees, having been initially appointed in session 1972–73. It is responsible for scrutinising the legal drafting of all statutory instruments made in exercise of powers granted by an Act of Parliament including those statutory instruments that are laid before Parliament but are not subject to procedure. In the last session the JCSI considered 757 statutory instruments, of which 166 required affirmative resolution, 462 negative resolution and 129 were laid but required no resolution. Commons-only statutory instruments are considered separately by the Select Committee on Statutory Instruments (SCSI), which is comprised of the Commons members of the Joint Committee. Commons-only instruments generally represent (an additional) 10% of the number that the JCSI consider and, in line with the average, this session the SCSI considered 71 instruments.
77. Standing Order 73 sets out the grounds on which the JCSI may draw a statutory instrument to the special attention of both Houses. In any year the majority of those reported are on the ground “that its drafting appears to be defective”⁸⁷ which can mean anything from incorrect numbering to definitions not set out appropriately. The rest are on more serious grounds such as doubtful “whether it is *intra vires*”⁸⁸ or an “unexpected use of the power”⁸⁹ in the parent Act. In the 2016–17 session 80 statutory instruments were drawn to the attention of Parliament (10.5% of the total examined) and of those 12 (15% of those reported) were on the most serious grounds of doubtful vires or unexpected use of the power. As much of the JCSI’s work is very technical it rarely attracts external notice but its recent report on the draft Non-Contentious Probate Fees Order⁹⁰ which queried whether the charging of a sliding scale of fees of up to £20,000 for registering probate on a will constituted a fee for a specific service, as envisaged by the Act, or a tax on the estate, was widely reported in the newspapers.

Delegated Legislation and the House of Lords

78. Less than four per cent of the time on the floor of the House is spent debating delegated legislation. Over the past 25 years, however, the House of Lords has developed a reputation for its detailed scrutiny of both the delegated powers contained in bills, and the merits of Statutory Instruments, through its two specialist committees. The activity and impact of those committees is examined in the following paragraphs.

87 House of Lords, *The Standing Orders of the House of Lords Relating to Public Business*, Standing Order 73 (18 May 2016), p 6: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/publications-records/House-of-Lords-Publications/Rules-guides-for-business/Standing-order-public-business/Standing-Orders-Public.pdf> [accessed 3 July 2017]

88 *Ibid.*

89 *Ibid.*

90 Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments, *Twenty-sixth Report of Session 2016–17* (Twenty-sixth Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 152)

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee

79. The Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee (DPRRC) examines all bills introduced into the Lords and reports on whether the provisions of any bill inappropriately delegate legislative power or whether they subject the exercise of legislative power to an inappropriate degree of parliamentary scrutiny.
80. In session 2016–17, the Committee published 28 reports on 37 bills (21 Government and 16 Private Members’ Bills) and seven sets of amendments. The Government accepted recommendations by the Committee in relation to a number of bills. These included: the Bus Services Bill, the Children and Social Work Bill, the Investigatory Powers Bill, the Policing and Crime Bill, the Wales Bill, the Digital Economy Bill, the Neighbourhood Planning Bill and the Higher Education and Research Bill. On occasion, the timetable is extremely tight, where, for example, a bill is fast-tracked. This was the case with the Northern Ireland (Ministerial Appointments and Regional Rates) Bill which the Committee considered and reported on the same day as consideration by the House.
81. The DPRRC is always vigilant about the use of Henry VIII powers. One area of particular concern over a number of sessions has been the use of consequential provision and powers to repeal, amend or “otherwise modify”⁹¹ primary legislation where the power to amend is subject to the affirmative procedure but the power to otherwise modify to the negative procedure. The DPRRC has recommended on several occasions that the affirmative procedure should apply across the board. The Government have resisted this point and, as a result, in March 2017, the Committee took evidence from First and Second Parliamentary Counsel in order to explore the matter further. That evidence remains under consideration by the Committee.
82. At the end of session 2015–16, the DPRRC published a report on the Strathclyde Review, complementing the work of the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee and the Constitution Committee. The three committees continued their collaboration during session 2016–17. Following publication of the Government’s response to the Strathclyde Review, the Chairmen of the three committees signed a joint letter to the Leader of the House of Commons replying to the Government’s response, deprecating its “minatory tone”.⁹²
83. The Chairman of the DPRRC gave evidence to the Constitution Committee’s inquiry into the legislative process which was cited in that Committee’s report on the Great Repeal Bill and delegated powers. That evidence, relating to sunseting the delegation of powers in the Great Repeal Bill, was later taken up in the Government’s White Paper, *Legislating for the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union*. The DPRRC also made two submissions to the Commons Procedure Committee inquiry into the delegated powers in the Great Repeal Bill and—looking forward to the next

91 The phrase “otherwise modify” appears frequently in Acts of Parliament. For example, section 42 (2b) of the Enterprise Act 2016 makes the following provision to amend, repeal, revoke or otherwise modify any provision made by or under an enactment (including an enactment passed or made in the same Session as this Act).

92 Letter from the Chair of the Constitution Committee, Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee and Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee on the Strathclyde Review, 19 December 2016: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/constitution/Correswithministers/Final%20Joint%20Strathclyde%20response%20letter%20151216.pdf>

session—has indicated that, given the exceptional nature of the Bill, it may wish to make its first assessment of the Bill when it is still in the Commons.

84. It has long been the practice of the Committee to make submissions to joint pre-legislative scrutiny committees. Towards the end of session 2016–17, the Committee extended that to a Commons-only pre-legislative scrutiny committee. Under a very tight deadline, the Committee made a submission to the Commons Science and Technology Committee on the draft Spaceflight Bill. The Committee’s submission was mentioned on numerous occasions in the report on the draft Bill and the Science and Technology Committee said: “We are grateful to the DPRR Committee for agreeing to examine the draft delegated powers memorandum accompanying the Bill and for responding so promptly”.⁹³

Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee

85. In 2016–17, the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee considered 659 statutory instruments, and brought 49 of these to the special attention of the House. The Committee held 30 meetings and published 33 reports. Eight of the 49 instruments reported related to the Government’s programme to devolve powers and budgets to cities and local government; the Committee commented critically on the handling of consultation in certain cases, and also on the explanation of consultation outcomes given by the Government. Members of the House drew extensively on these reports in the debates on the instruments which ensued.
86. The Committee followed up long-standing concerns with the Government’s preparation and presentation of secondary legislation in a number of ways:
- in July 2016 it took oral evidence from three Permanent Secretaries about these issues, which led the Government to develop a programme to improve civil servants’ skills in providing adequate supporting information in the Explanatory Memoranda laid alongside statutory instruments;
 - in February 2017 it received from the Rt Hon Ben Gummer, MP, Cabinet Office Minister, the first in a series of annual reports on Government consultation which had been promised in response to the Committee’s consideration of this issue in previous Sessions.
87. Alongside its ongoing work of scrutiny, the Committee published several issue-based reports:
- in December 2016, the Government published their response to the Strathclyde Review; in the same month, jointly with the Constitution Committee and the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee, the Committee published a critical reply to that Government response, regretting its “more minatory tone”⁹⁴ compared with the Government’s statement to the House on 17 November 2017;

93 Science and Technology Committee, *The Draft Spaceflight Bill* (Fourteenth Report, Session 2016–17, HC 1070)

94 Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, *Joint response to the Government Response to the Strathclyde Review and related Select Committee Reports by the Constitution Committee, the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee and the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee* (19th Report, Session 2016–17, HL Paper 90)

- in February 2017, the Committee published its response to the five-year evaluation of the Public Bodies Act 2011, commenting in particular that it saw the Government’s handling of the 2011 Act as showing a “cavalier approach”⁹⁵ to the use of Parliament’s time;
- in early 2017, the Committee gave written evidence to the Constitution Committee’s inquiry into *The ‘Great Repeal Bill’ and delegated powers*, and also to the inquiry by the House of Commons Procedure Committee into the same topic, publishing its evidence to the latter in a Special Report.

⁹⁵ Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, *Post-Legislative Assessment of the Public Bodies Act 2011* (February 2017): <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/Secondary-Legislation-Scrutiny-Committee/post-legislative-assessment-of-the-public-bodies-act-2011.pdf>

CHAPTER 5: JOINT COMMITTEES

Joint Committee on Human Rights

88. The Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) completed four thematic inquiries during the 2016–17 session. The first examined the Government’s plans in relation to counter-extremism in anticipation of a Bill which was trailed in the Queen’s Speech but was not forthcoming during the session. The Government’s response to the report was broadly in agreement with the Committee’s conclusions and made a commitment to fully consult on proposals before a Bill is published.
89. Following the UK’s vote to leave the EU, the JCHR also published a short report on the human rights implications of Brexit. This examined issues such as residence rights and the ‘Great Repeal Bill’. Amendments to the EU (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill to guarantee residence rights for EU citizens in the UK were moved by JCHR members in both Houses. The Committee is still awaiting the Government’s response.
90. The JCHR also completed its inquiry into human rights and business which looked in detail at ways in which the Government and businesses could improve standards in supply chains. As part of the inquiry, the Committee visited Istanbul and Ankara, Leicester, and the UK National Contact Point (housed in the Department for International Trade). As part of this inquiry the Committee also heard from a fisherman in rural Nigeria via video conference.
91. The Committee’s final thematic inquiry of the session examined mental health and deaths in prison. Due to the unexpected announcement of a General Election, the inquiry was cut short and the JCHR published a brief interim report summarising the key findings so far. During the inquiry the Committee heard from serving prisoners in a special evidence session which was broadcast the following day with the witnesses’ voices altered to protect their identities.
92. The JCHR also reported on four Bills during the 2016–17 session as part of its duty to conduct legislative scrutiny. Amendments to the Investigatory Powers Bill, Children and Social Work Bill, Policing and Crime Bill and Cultural Property (Armed Conflict) Bill were moved by Committee members in both Houses. The Committee secured a Government concession on its amendment to the Policing and Crime Bill regarding nationality documents.

Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy

93. In the 2016–17 session the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy (JCNSS) published two reports as well as holding a one-off evidence session with the Home Secretary. Its work was supplemented and informed by private briefing sessions. The 22 members of the Committee met approximately monthly when both Houses were sitting.
94. The Committee’s first inquiry, on the National Security Strategy (NSS) and Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015, examined whether the strategy was “fit for purpose”.⁹⁶ The Committee’s report recognised the progress and improvements made by the Government in formulating

96 Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, *National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015*, (First Report, Session 2016–17, HC 153, HL Paper 18)

this strategy compared with the process by which the NSS and SDSR were developed in 2010, and welcomed the implementation of a previous recommendation by the Committee that the Government should allow more time for review and engagement. The Committee was concerned that:

- The strategy did not address the possible security implications of the vote to leave the European Union. The Committee recommended that a detailed analysis of any such implications should begin immediately.
- Military and civilian staff may not have the capacity to fulfil all the requirements of the strategy in the face of reductions to civilian staff and the possible decline in real terms of spending on defence as a result of an economic contraction following the referendum result.
- There were gaps in the implementation of the UK’s cyber security strategy and a need for greater and more productive co-operation between the public and private sectors on cyber security.⁹⁷

95. The Committee’s second inquiry arose from evidence to the National Security Strategy inquiry about the operation of the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. This £1 billion fund is designed to commission programmes abroad which prevent conflict and/or promote national or regional security as well as responding to international crises. The Committee concluded that a lack of transparency about the fund’s objectives, spending, and achievements prevented meaningful scrutiny of its work. The Committee recommended a single minister be appointed as responsible for the fund, as well as recommending greater openness to the public and Parliament.⁹⁸ The Government’s response to the report highlighted its intention to publish future annual reports on the fund and indicated that it was “currently considering” how to ensure “appropriate accountability” to Parliament.⁹⁹ It also confirmed that the Government is considering which Minister should have overall responsibility for the fund.
96. In January 2017 the Committee launched a third inquiry examining cyber security and received written and some oral evidence on the topic.¹⁰⁰ The Committee did not conclude this inquiry before the dissolution of Parliament.
97. Finally, in March 2017 the Committee held a ‘one-off’ evidence session with the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP, the outgoing National Security Adviser Sir Mark Lyall-Grant, and Conrad Bailey, Director of SDSR and Defence in the Cabinet Office.¹⁰¹

97 *Ibid.*

98 Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, *Conflict, Stability and Security Fund* (Second Report, Session 2016–17, HC 208, HL Paper 105)

99 Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, *Conflict, Stability and Security Fund: Government Response to the Committee’s Second Report of Session 2016–17* (Second Special Report, Session 2016–17, HC 1134, HL Paper 158)

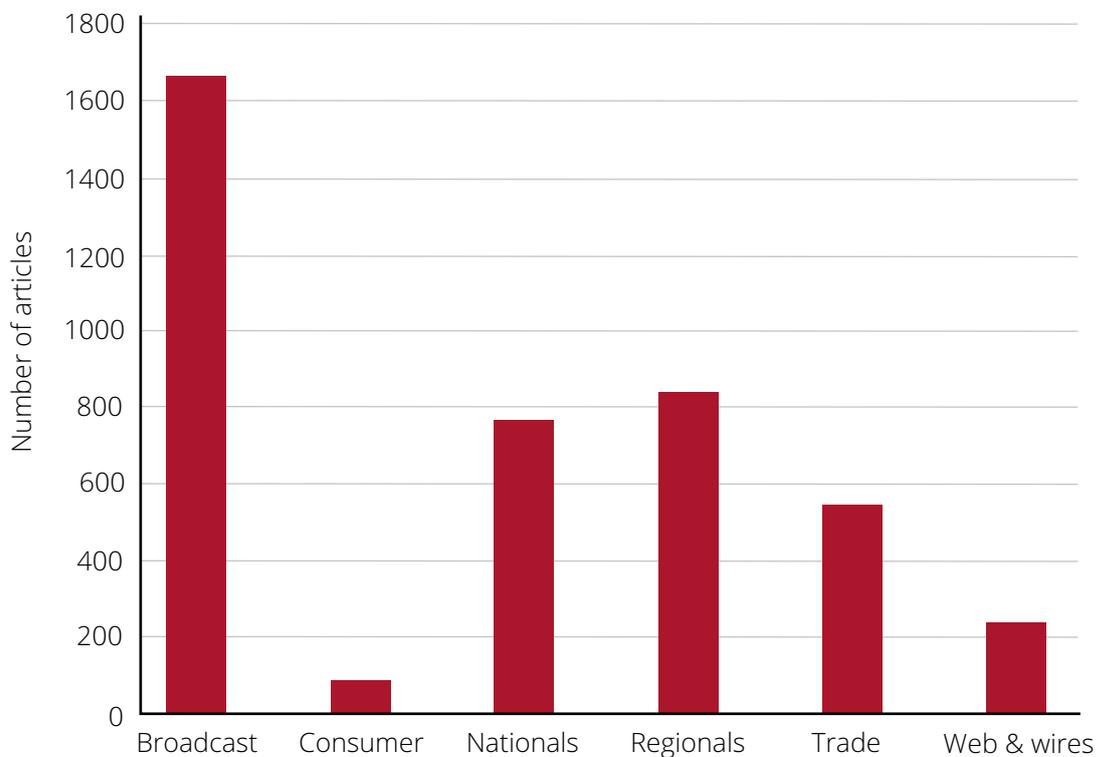
100 Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, ‘Cyber Security: UK National Security in a Digital World inquiry’: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/national-security-strategy/inquiries/parliament-2015/cyber-security-inquiry-16-17/> [accessed May 2017]

101 Oral evidence taken before the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy, 6 March 2017, (Session 2016–17) ,[QQ 100-119](#) (Dr Richard Horne, Mr Rowland Johnson, Dr Brandon Valeriano and Mr Ollie Whitehouse)

CHAPTER 6: COMMUNICATING MORE WIDELY

98. In our last highlight report, covering the 2015–16 session, we reported that the total number of positive UK media articles about House of Lords Committees was up 94 per cent on the previous session. This strong upward trend continued in the 2016–17 session. 4,136 media articles were published in the 2016–17 session (to 19 May), made up of 3,876 positive articles, 233 neutral and 27 negative. The total Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) of positive and neutral articles for the full session was £29.16m—nearly treble the equivalent value for the previous session.
99. Of the 4,136 media articles identified, 1,663 were in broadcast media, 840 in regional print media, 765 in national print media, 544 in trade publications, 238 on the web and wires and 86 in consumer publications.

Figure 1: 2016–17 coverage by media type



94% of the media coverage was positive in tone, 6% was neutral and less than 1% (27 articles) were critical of Committee's work.

The session saw a particularly significant increase in broadcast coverage and regional print coverage for Committees which more than doubled.

100. The leading Committees in terms of volume of positive coverage were the EU Select Committee (628 positive articles and features), Economic Affairs Committee (515 positive articles and features), EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee (451 positive articles and features), Constitution Committee (283 positive articles and features) and the Committee on Financial Exclusion (259 positive articles and features).

101. A particular highlight in terms of generating media interest was the EU Committee's 'Brexit week' in December 2016, when the EU Committees published six reports in six days related to Brexit. This generated more than 500 media articles including three national newspaper front page articles and 10 positive editorials in a range of national and regional newspapers. Many articles also linked the reports as part of the House of Lords' ongoing scrutiny of Brexit. This built on the positive reputation the EU Committee had developed after the referendum when its May 2016 report on the Process of Withdrawing From the EU had become a much quoted source of information on Brexit in the media and among commentators.
102. 'Brexit Week' also delivered positive results on social media; the EU Committee Twitter account posted 179 tweets and retweets during the week that were retweeted 3,578 times. The account was mentioned in 2,667 tweets and acquired 287 followers during the course of the week. The equivalent campaign on Facebook had a reach of 15,050 and received 164 likes, comments or shares during the week. The Lords Brexit round-up page on the Parliament website had twice the number of page views during the week the reports were published than previous weeks.
103. Other highlights included:
- the Financial Exclusion Committee's report, which was very well covered in the broadcast media and featured as lead item on Radio 4's Money Box on the day of publication,
 - the International Relations Committee, whose evidence session with Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson was very widely covered by the media and whose report on the Middle East was reported on the front page of The Guardian and across the national print press despite being published following the surprise announcement of the General Election,
 - the Economic Affairs Committee's report on the Energy Market, which was widely covered in the media with 27 national and regional print articles on the report.
 - the Economic Affairs Committee's evidence sessions with The Governor of the Bank of England, Philip Hammond as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Pret a Manger on Brexit and the Labour market also provoked significant media interest.
104. A successful theme of three of this year's four ad hoc committees was engagement with their sector press. The Charities Committee report was covered 33 times by the charity press, the Licensing Act 2003 report 20 times by the licensing press and the Committee on the Long-Term Sustainability of the NHS' report 27 times by the health sector press. This reflects an opportunity identified in those ad hoc Committees' communication strategies to engage with their sector press to ensure key stakeholders were informed about the reports and their recommendations.

105. There were also digital innovations, including using Twitter’s Q&A app to run a session for targeted, as well as wider public, stakeholders on how to submit evidence to the Charities Committee inquiry. A summary of the session is available on Storify.¹⁰² Following the Q&A session, a series of infographics highlighting the range of charities that submitted evidence were promoted across social media channels. This pilot provided valuable insights into Twitter’s potential for widening stakeholder involvement in inquiries that will inform future select committee communication plans.
106. Views of select committee work on Parliamentlive.tv have also grown significantly over the course of the year. Comparing quarter three (Oct-Dec) of 2015–16 with the equivalent quarter in 2016–17, numbers of views more than doubled from 19,120 to 50,996. This pattern was replicated in all the other quarters of the year.

102 House of Lords, ‘Lords Select Committee on Charities Q&A’ (August 2016): <https://storify.com/UKHouseofLords/lords-charities-committee-q-a> [accessed 6 June 2017]

APPENDIX 1: ACTIVITY INDICATOR DATA FOR INVESTIGATIVE SELECT COMMITTEES BY FINANCIAL YEARS

	2012/13 (Joint Committees)	2013/14 (Joint Committees)	2014/15 (Joint Committees)	2015/16 (Joint Committees)	2016/17 (Joint Committees)
number of committees/sub-committees	18 ¹⁰³ (2)	21 ¹⁰⁴ (4)	18 ¹⁰⁵ (3)	20 ¹⁰⁶ (3)	20 ¹⁰⁷ (2)
number of committee meetings	448(46)	552(96)	423(40)	406(29)	533 (39)
number of committee members	200(12)	240(25)	211(19)	238(23)	295(16)
number of witnesses giving oral evidence	620(100)	948(192)	641(70)	857(77)	1120(95)
number of written submissions received	869(279)	1649(673)	863(106)	1270(208)	1791(284)
number of reports published	39(9)	53(15)	53(12)	27(2)	59(11)
number of printed pages of reports	1863(462)	2994(912)	3460(725)	1394(220)	3957(551)
resource expenditure outturn	£3,342,135	£3,498,653	£3,611,305	£3,790,216	£3,954,294

103 Including JCHR and Joint Committee on Draft Communications Data Bill. Excluding Joint Committees on the Draft Care and Support Bill, Draft Enhanced Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Bill.

104 Including JCHR, Joint Committees on the Draft Modern Slavery Bill, Draft Voting Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill and Draft Deregulation Bill. Excluding JCNSS and Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards.

105 Including JCHR, Joint Committee on the Draft Charities Bill. Excluding JCNSS and Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards.

106 Including JCHR, Joint Committee on the Draft Investigatory Powers Bill and JCNSS. Excluding Joint Committee on the Palace of Westminster.

107 Including JCHR and JCNSS. Excluding Joint Committee on the Palace of Westminster and the Select Committee on the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Bill.

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF INVESTIGATIVE SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS PUBLISHED IN SESSION 2016–17, INCLUDING DATES OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Committee	Title	Publication date	Government response received?
Charities	Stronger charities for a stronger society	26 March 2017	Overdue - was expected 30 June 2017
Communications	A privatised future for Channel 4?	11 July 2016	Letter received 29 March 2017. Chairman replied on 29 March 2017
Communications	Growing up with the internet	21 March 2017	Extension granted - expected July 2017
Communications	Skills for theatre: Developing the pipeline of talent	03 May 2017	None required
Constitution Committee	The Union and devolution	25 May 2016	07 March 2017
Constitution Committee	Children and Social Work Bill	13 June 2016	15 June 2016
Constitution Committee	Sessional Report 2015–16	13 June 2016	None required
Constitution Committee	Investigatory Powers Bill	11 July 2016	05 September 2016
Constitution Committee	The invoking of article 50	13 September 2016	None required
Constitution Committee	Wales Bill	28 October 2016	14 December 2016
Constitution Committee	English Votes for English laws	02 November 2016	March 2017
Constitution Committee	Digital Economy Bill	17 January 2017	16 February 2017
Constitution Committee	European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill	23 February 2017	None required
Constitution Committee	The ‘Great Repeal Bill’ and delegated powers	07 March 2017	None required

Economic Affairs	Building more homes	15 July 2016	13 December 2016
Economic Affairs	The Price of Power: Reforming the Electricity Market	24 February 2017	24 April 2017
Economic Affairs	Draft Finance Bill 2017: Making Tax Digital for Business	17 March 2017	None expected
EU Energy and Environment	Brexit: fisheries	17 December 2016	14 March 2017
EU Energy and Environment	Brexit: environment and climate change	14 February 2017	16 April 2017
EU Energy and Environment	Brexit: agriculture	03 May 2017	29 June 2017
EU External Affairs Committee	Brexit: trade in goods	14 March 2017	Overdue - was expected 14 May 2017
EU Financial Affairs	Brexit and the EU budget	04 March 2017	Overdue - was expected 4 May 2017 but held up by General Election 2017 Purdah
EU Financial Affairs Committee	Brexit: financial services	15 December 2016	20 March 2017
EU Home Affairs	Children in crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU	26 July 2016	01 November 2016
EU Home Affairs	Brexit: future UK-EU security and police cooperation	16 December 2016	Overdue - was expected 16 February 2017
EU Home Affairs	Brexit: UK-EU movement of people	06 March 2017	Overdue - was expected 06 May 2017

EU Internal Market	Brexit: trade in non-financial services	22 March 2017	Overdue - was expected 22 May 2017 but held up by Election purdah
EU Internal Market and External Affairs	Brexit: the options for trade	13 December 2016	28 February 2017
EU Justice Committee	Brexit: acquired rights	14 December 2016	Overdue - was expected 14 February 2017
EU Justice Committee	The Legality of EU sanctions	02 February 2017	Received 06 April 2017
EU Justice Committee	Brexit: justice for families, individuals and businesses?	20 March 2017	Overdue - was expected 20 May 2017
EU Select	Scrutinising Brexit: the role of Parliament	22 July 2016	20 December 2016 (also Govt. response to Brexit: parliamentary scrutiny)
EU Select	Report on 2015–16	28 July 2016	None required
EU Select	Brexit: parliamentary scrutiny	20 October 2016	20 December 2016 (also covers response to Scrutinising Brexit: the role of Parliament)
EU Select	Brexit: UK-Irish relations	12 December 2016	Response cannot be submitted until Northern Ireland Executive is reconstituted.
EU Select	Brexit: Gibraltar	28 February 2017	Overdue - expected 01 May 2017
EU Select	Brexit: the Crown Dependencies	23 March 2017	Overdue - expected 23 May 2017 - dissolution

Financial Exclusion	Tackling financial exclusion: A country that works for everyone?	25 March 2017	Overdue -expected 25 May 2017.
International Relations	The UK and the UN: Priorities for the new Secretary-General	03 November 2016	05 January 2017
International Relations	The Middle East: Time for New Realism	02 May 2017	03 July 2017
JCHR	Investigatory Powers Bill	02 June 2016	None required
JCHR	Counter-extremism Bill	22 July 2016	19 October 2016
JCHR	Children and Social Work Bill, Policing and Crime Bill, Cultural Property (armed Conflict) Bill	13 October 2016	None required
JCHR	The Government's policy on the use of drones for targeted killing: Government Response	19 October 2016	None required
JCHR	The human rights implications of Brexit	19 December 2016	Overdue - was expected 19 February 2017
JCHR	Human Rights and Business 2017: Promoting responsibility and ensuring accountability	05 April 2017	Not due yet - expected 05 July 2017
JCHR	Mental Health and Deaths in Prison	02 May 2017	Not due yet - expected 02 August 2017

JCNSS	National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015	10 July 2016	15 September 2016
JCNSS	1st Special Report	27 October 2016	None required
JCNSS	Conflict and Stability Fund	07 February 2017	07 April 2017
JCNSS	Conflict, Stability and Security Fund: Government response	27 April 2017	None required
Joint Committee on the Palace of Westminster	Restoration and Renewal of the Palace of Westminster	08 September 2016	None required
Licensing Act 2003	Licensing Act 2003	04 April 2017	Overdue - expected 30 June 2017
Long Term Sustainability of the NHS	Long Term Sustainability of the NHS	05 April 2017	Overdue - expected 01 July 2017
Science and Technology Committee (Lords)	A time for boldness: EU membership and UK science after the referendum	20 December 2016	10 February 2017
Science and Technology Committee (Lords)	Connected and Autonomous Vehicles: The future?	15 March 2017	Not due yet - expected by 29 September 2017
Science and Technology Committee (Lords)	Nuclear research and technology: Breaking the cycle of indecision	02 May 2017	Not due yet - expected by 13 September 2017

APPENDIX 3: TOTAL NUMBER OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS CONSIDERED BY THE SECONDARY LEGISLATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Session	Affirmative	Negative	Total Received	No of Reports	Affirmatives reported	Negatives reported	Total reported	Inquiries	Annual Report	PBOs	PBO reports ****
2012–13	176	703	879	35	31	30	61	The Government's new approach to consultation– "Work in Progress"	1	14	13
2013–14	205	785	990	42	29	30	59		1	8	9
2014–15***	340	808	1148	33	44	45	89	Inquiry into Government Consultation Practice Number of Corrections to Statutory Instruments in 2014	1	5	7
2015–16	119	593	712	35	25	42	67	Response to the Strathclyde Review	1	0	0
2016–17	150	509	659	33	29	22	51		1	0	0
Current total	1,941	7,998	9,939	352	251	332	583	6	10	31	34

*** Election year

**** Includes special reports