



HOUSE OF LORDS

Liaison Committee

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4th Report of Session 2017–19

# **New special inquiry committees 2019–20**

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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.

### *Membership*

The Members of the Liaison Committee are:

<a href="#"><u>Baroness Evans of Bowes Park</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord Low of Dalston</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Lord Foulkes of Cumnock</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord McFall of Alcluith</u></a> (Chairman)
<a href="#"><u>Baroness Garden of Frognal</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord Newby</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord Smith of Hindhead</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Lord Hope of Craighead</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Lord Williams of Elvel</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Lord Lang of Monkton</u></a>	

### *Declaration of interests*

See Appendix 1.

A full list of Members' interests can be found in the Register of Lords' Interests:

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests>

### *Publications*

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<http://www.parliament.uk/lords-liaison>

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### *Committee staff*

The current staff of the Committee are Philippa Tudor (Clerk), Alice Delaney (Research Assistant) and Heather Fuller (Committee Assistant).

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# New special inquiry Committees in 2019–20

## INTRODUCTION

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1. In response to our call for proposals for new special inquiry (formerly *ad hoc*) committees in 2019–20 we received a total of 27 submissions, which is consistent with the large number of responses received in previous years. Since 2012 the House of Lords has usually appointed four such special inquiry committees each session. At least one of these has been a post-legislative scrutiny committee, such scrutiny being an innovation in the 2010–15 Parliament.
2. Despite the popularity of special inquiry committees, several members have continued to draw attention to their obvious disadvantage compared to sessional committees, which is that the Committees do not continue once they have reported. There are also no dedicated resources to follow up their work, although the Liaison Committee itself has undertaken limited follow-up activity, supported by briefing notes prepared by Library staff. The question of following up the work of special inquiry Committees is being considered by our current major review of House of Lords committee activity.
3. Following feedback received as part of the ongoing review of House of Lords investigative and scrutiny committees, we have introduced several changes to the process of special inquiry topic selection, with a view to increasing transparency. These changes include:
  - Changing the name of committees from *ad hoc* to special inquiry committees.
  - The introduction of a template for proposals. The template included six questions with the aim of aiding members to structure their submissions and to provide a degree of equality across those received.
  - Publishing all submissions received online earlier in the process and providing additional detail about the background to and scope of our recommendations for new committees in this report.
4. The proposals we received this year were all published online on 10 January 2019. These are available at [https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/liaison/Special\\_Inquiry\\_Committee\\_Proposals\\_for\\_2019%e2%80%9320.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/liaison/Special_Inquiry_Committee_Proposals_for_2019%e2%80%9320.pdf). The titles of the proposals are listed in Appendix 2.
5. We considered all the proposals received in accordance with our published criteria for selection, as follows:
  - Makes best use of the knowledge and experience of Members of the House;
  - Complements the work of Commons departmental select committees;

- Addresses areas of policy that cross departmental boundaries; and
  - The activity proposed should be capable of being confined to one session.
6. Once again we had difficult choices to make, and are grateful to those members who put forward their proposals, in many cases clearly putting a considerable amount of effort into doing so.
  7. This report sets out our recommendations to the House as to the subject of the four new special inquiry Committees.

## A POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATION ACT 2013

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8. The key feature of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 was its introduction of individual electoral registration (IER), whereby registration to vote is done individually rather than on a household basis. The original commitment to implementation was in the Labour Party's phased roll-out of IER in the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009. This followed repeated calls from the Electoral Commission for a change in the law to allow for IER.<sup>1</sup> In 2010, in the Coalition Government's programme for government, they committed to "reduce electoral fraud by speeding up the implementation of individual voter registration".<sup>2</sup>
9. In June 2011, the Coalition Government published a White Paper and draft legislation on IER.<sup>3</sup> A public consultation was held on the proposals, and the Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (now the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee [PACAC]) carried out pre-legislative scrutiny.<sup>4</sup> The Electoral Registration and Administration Bill was introduced on 10 May 2012 and received Royal Assent on 30 January 2013. Apart from the introduction of rolling registration in 2001, which allowed electors to notify the Electoral Registration Office (ERO) of a change of address in between canvasses, the system of registration had remained essentially unchanged since 1949.<sup>5</sup>
10. As well as implementing IER, the Act provided for a two-year transition period by which voters who failed to register under the former system would be automatically carried forward to the first register established under the new system. The Act also provided for data matching to verify applications, checking existing registrations to find individuals who do not appear on the register, as well as making provision for an annual canvass to ensure the register was kept up to date.
11. The main provisions of the Act, many of which amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Representation of the People Act 2000, are as follows:
  - Individual electoral registration in Great Britain. The detailed arrangements were set out in regulations made by the Secretary of State.

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1 House of Commons Library, *Electoral Registration and Administration Bill*, [Research Paper 12/26](#), 17 May 2012

2 HM Government, *The Coalition: our programme for government* (May 2010), p. 27: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/78977/coalition\\_programme\\_for\\_government.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/78977/coalition_programme_for_government.pdf) [accessed 7 March 2019]

3 HM Government, *Consultation outcome: individual electoral registration: draft legislation* (30 June 2011): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/individual-electoral-registration-draft-legislation> [accessed 7 March 2019]

4 HM Government, *Draft Electoral Administration Provisions* Cm 8150, July 2011: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/61000/draft-electoral-administration-provisions.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61000/draft-electoral-administration-provisions.pdf) [accessed 7 March 2019] and HM Government, *Further Draft Electoral Administration Provisions*, Cm 8177, September 2011: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/61019/further-draft-electoral.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61019/further-draft-electoral.pdf) [accessed 7 March 2019]

5 House of Commons Library, *Electoral Registration and Administration Bill*, [Research Paper 12/26](#), 17 May 2012

- A system of verifying applicants to be included on the electoral register was established.
- The annual canvass was retained but there were changes to the arrangements. Returning a canvass form no longer registered the people resident at a particular address.
- The Secretary of State was given the power to abolish, amend or reinstate the annual canvass.
- The timetable for parliamentary elections was extended from 17 days to 25 days.
- Parish elections were allowed to take place on the same day as local elections and general elections.
- Local authorities were required to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places every five years from 1 October 2013, amending the current provisions for a four-yearly review.

12. A review of the Act might consider the following questions:

- What has been the effect of the transition to individual registration on the completeness and accuracy of electoral registers?
- What has been the impact of the Act on electoral participation as a whole?
- What are the benefits of the administrative changes, and is there scope for further reform?
- How could potential disenfranchisement be tackled? For this, the committee may wish to look at Northern Ireland, where schools are involved in the process of registering 16-year-olds in anticipation of their 18th birthdays. Similarly, the University of Sheffield has enabled students to register through a simple tick box.<sup>6</sup>
- How can those with special needs and disabilities (including mental capacity challenges) be supported in exercising their right to vote?
- Have the powers granted to ministers by the Act been used appropriately?
- Has the Act been successful in its objective of tackling electoral fraud?
- What other measures could be taken to encourage registration and promote electoral participation?
- How does IER compare with international models? This was examined by the Information Society Alliance in 2011, although sufficient time has passed for a reanalysis.<sup>7</sup>

13. **We recommend the establishment of a special inquiry committee to consider post-legislative scrutiny of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, to report by the end of March 2020.**

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6 Citizenship and Civic Engagement Committee, *The Ties that Bind: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in the 21st Century*, (Session 2017–18, HL Paper 118)

7 The Information Society Alliance, *Individual Voter Registration: Lessons from Overseas* (March 2011): <https://dpalliance.org.uk/download/individual-voter-registration-lessons-from-overseas/?wpdmdl=1298> [accessed 7 March 2019]

## A SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE GAMBLING INDUSTRY

14. Traditionally, gambling could only be accessed through betting shops, casinos, bingo halls, or amusement arcades. However, with the rise of the internet, gambling is now accessible remotely. The range of activities that can be undertaken online vary from playing roulette or slot machines at an online casino, to buying lottery tickets or betting on a horse race via a smart phone; gambling is much more accessible than 20 years ago.<sup>8</sup> Over half of people in Britain gamble, and those that do tend to gamble fairly regularly. Although gambling is an activity which many participate in without any problems, some experience difficulties with their gambling habits that can lead to serious consequences. 340,000 adults are involved in ‘problem gambling’, or gambling “to a degree that compromises, disrupts or damages family, personal or recreational pursuits”.<sup>9</sup>
15. The key piece of gambling legislation in the UK is the Gambling Act 2005. Overall, the Act replaced most of the existing law about gambling and put in place a more comprehensive structure of gambling regulation. The Act introduced a unified regulator for gambling in Great Britain, the Gambling Commission, and a new licensing regime for commercial gambling (to be conducted by the Commission or by Licensing Authorities, depending on the matter to be licensed). The Act removed from licensing justices all responsibility for granting gaming and betting permissions, which they had exercised previously. Instead, the Gambling Commission and local authorities now share the responsibility for all those matters previously regulated by the licensing justices.
16. Between November and December 2016, the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) held a consultation on proposed amendments to Schedule 6 of the Gambling Act 2005. Schedule 6 lists bodies with whom the Commission can share information and who can share information with the Commission under section 30 of the 2005 Act. These include sports governing bodies (SGBs), who tackle breaches of sports betting rules or codes of conduct. DCMS also ran a consultation on gaming machines and social responsibility measures from October 2017 to January 2018. In May 2018, it published its report.<sup>10</sup>
17. A special inquiry Committee on this topic might consider the following issues:
  - The economic cost of gambling on services including mental health, hospital inpatient services; welfare and employment costs through Job Seeker’s Allowance claimant costs and lost labour tax receipts; housing costs through statutory homelessness applications and criminal justice costs;

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8 NatCen, *Gambling behaviour in Great Britain in 2016: Evidence from England, Scotland and Wales* (September 2018) p 5: <https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/survey-data/Gambling-behaviour-in-Great-Britain-2016.pdf> [accessed 16 January 2019]

9 *Ibid.*, pp 64, 71

10 Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, *Government response to the consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures* (May 2018): [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/707815/Government\\_response\\_to\\_the\\_consultation\\_on\\_proposals\\_for\\_changes\\_to\\_gaming\\_machines\\_and\\_social\\_responsibility\\_measures.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/707815/Government_response_to_the_consultation_on_proposals_for_changes_to_gaming_machines_and_social_responsibility_measures.pdf) [accessed 15 January 2019]

- The effectiveness of the voluntary levy and possible alternatives;
  - Taxation of offshore gambling companies;
  - The impact, if any, of gambling advertising;
  - How women and ethnic minorities with gambling addictions can be better supported;
  - The ‘gambification’ of sport and involvement of betting companies; and
  - Whether the Gambling Commission and local authorities are effectively regulating gambling.
18. **We recommend the establishment of a special inquiry committee to consider the social and economic impact of the gambling industry, to report by the end of March 2020.**

## A SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

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19. Digital technologies include any digital resource that is used to find, analyse, create, communicate and use information on a digital platform. In recent years, political parties have made increasing use of a range of online tools including using social media platforms for political communication and investing in digital marketing campaigns. As the use of online political campaigning has become a prominent feature of the political environment, the impact of digital technologies on our democratic processes has come under increasing scrutiny, not least due to allegations of interference by foreign states to influence the outcomes of countries' elections.
20. With the introduction and growth of digital media and social media, the methods and even the definition of political campaigning have evolved. As noted by the Electoral Reform Society, whilst “online campaigning is not new, it has changed significantly in terms of scale, reach and sophistication”<sup>11</sup> in more recent elections. The Electoral Commission reported that in the 2015 UK general election 23.9% of the total spend of advertising by political parties was on digital advertising.<sup>12</sup> During the 2017 election this percentage grew to 42.8%, including £3 million spent on advertising on Facebook alone.<sup>13</sup>
21. The increasing use of digital techniques by political groups, particularly the use of social media for the dissemination of political messaging, has prompted serious concerns about the way in which individuals' data is used to shape the political information they receive. One technique that has attracted criticism is micro-targeting. Micro-targeting uses social media data to target advertising to individual users “based on demographic factors like age and gender, on their interests and on their physical location”.<sup>14</sup> The only individuals who know what adverts have been shown to which person are the individual, the organisation and the platform that held it, and the only people who know why a person has been targeted are the individual and the organisation that distributed the advert.<sup>15</sup>
22. Key concerns include the limited information available about this practice, how organisations obtain the data about individuals and how this may then be used to manipulate their views. The Information Commissioner's Office has carried out extensive work into the issue of data analytics and micro-targeting by UK political parties in its July 2018 report *'Democracy disrupted?'*<sup>16</sup> The ICO noted that: “behavioural advertising techniques in

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11 Electoral Reform Society, 'Reining in the Political “Wild West”': Campaign Rules for the 21st Century' (February 2019): <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/reining-in-the-political-wild-west-campaign-rules-for-the-21st-century/> [accessed 6 February 2019]

12 The Electoral Commission, *Digital campaigning* (June 2018): [https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/244594/Digital-campaigning-improving-transparency-for-voters.pdf](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/244594/Digital-campaigning-improving-transparency-for-voters.pdf) [accessed 28 January 2019]

13 'Who spent what on Facebook during 2017 election campaign?', *BBC* (31 March 2018): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-43487301> [accessed 6 February 2019]

14 The Electoral Commission, *Digital campaigning* (June 2018): [https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/244594/Digital-campaigning-improving-transparency-for-voters.pdf](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/244594/Digital-campaigning-improving-transparency-for-voters.pdf) [accessed 28 January 2019]

15 *Ibid.*

16 Information Commissioner's Office, *Democracy disrupted? Personal information and political influence* (July 2018): <https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/2259369/democracy-disrupted-110718.pdf> [accessed 12 February 2019]

politics... happened without public awareness or discussion”,<sup>17</sup> highlighting the limited information available to the general public.

23. Several recommendations have been made to the Government around how issues in this area might be tackled. These include: regulations to be imposed by the UK Government; stronger oversight power offered to regulators such as the Electoral Commission; and methods for digital platforms to put in place measures to regulate political campaigning on their sites. Many of these have been mentioned or recommended to the Government, although there has been limited consideration given to the details of how and if they would work in practice.
24. In January 2018 the UK Government set out its Digital Charter which included a programme of work that will “evolve as technology changes”.<sup>18</sup> The priorities set out by the Government included the legal liabilities of online platforms and limiting the spread of disinformation or “fake news”. The Government has stated that it aims to work alongside the tech sector, businesses and civil society, in order to approach and tackle these issues; however, there have been no further plans set out to state how the Government intends to do this.
25. The Political Polling and Digital Media Committee, which reported in April 2018, recommended that an *ad hoc* committee be established in 2018–19 to scrutinise further the issues around digital media and politics that it had not had the opportunity to undertake in detail. It noted that its work could act as a base for further scrutiny of the wider topic to be conducted. Establishing this special inquiry now could be seen as a response to this recommendation.
26. The majority of recommendations around this policy area all call for more regulation of technology, and for more stringent rules to be put in place to prevent the spread of disinformation. However, there are limited recommendations thus far that offer detail of how these regulations could be put in place and be used effectively. Therefore, a Committee on this topic may also wish to consider the following:
  - Evidence of the extent of the harm caused by digital media to politics and political campaigning;
  - Recommendations which have been proposed to date, their suitability and possible efficacy;
  - Progress that has been made towards implementation of any of these recommendations by the Government and relevant industry stakeholders; and
  - Alternative policy responses.
27. **We recommend the establishment of a special inquiry committee to consider democracy and digital technologies, to report by the end of March 2020.**

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17 ‘Social media ‘micro-targeting’ of voters on the increase, MPs told’, *The Guardian* (23 January 2018): <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/jan/23/social-media-micro-targeting-of-voters-on-the-increase-mps-told> [accessed 12 February 2019]

18 HM Government ‘Digital Charter’ (25 January 2018): [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/676715/2018-01-25\\_Digital\\_Charter\\_final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/676715/2018-01-25_Digital_Charter_final.pdf) [accessed 7 February 2019]

## A SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE ON FOOD, POVERTY, HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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28. Food, poverty, health and the environment all intersect. Low-income groups are more likely to consume fat spreads, non-diet soft drinks, meat dishes, pizzas, processed meats, whole milk and table sugar than those in a higher income bracket.<sup>19</sup> Maintaining a poor diet inevitably leads to health problems. Poor diet can contribute to a range of chronic diseases including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and type 2 diabetes.<sup>20</sup> Chronic disease arising from poor diets not only affects an individual's life chances, but also imposes public costs; it is estimated that by 2050 £9.7 billion of NHS costs will be attributed to health issues associated with being overweight and obesity, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year.<sup>21</sup>
29. Sustainable environments and food production can improve the health of those living in poverty. The Marmot Review, *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*, argued that:
- “The need for mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change means that we must do things differently. Creating a sustainable future is entirely compatible with action to reduce health inequalities: sustainable local communities, active transport, sustainable food production, and zero-carbon houses will have health benefits across society.”<sup>22</sup>
- Internationally, studies show that among low-income groups price is the greatest motivating factor in food choice. In the US, for instance, price reductions have seen positive increases in the sales of low-fat foods and fruit and vegetables.<sup>23</sup>
30. Given the work done by the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee on childhood obesity, the Committee on this topic may wish to avoid focussing to any great extent on childhood or obesity, instead looking at diet related issues generally and across all ages. With the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee reports on CAP and agriculture and the existing and forthcoming Committee on Climate Change reports on land use and climate change, the Committee may wish to avoid looking at climate change and land use generally, instead strictly linking food and diet with sustainability.
31. The key areas that an inquiry might examine include:
- How can food be made both sustainable and affordable?

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19 Food Standards Agency, *Low Income and Diet Survey: Summary of key findings* (2007) p 17: <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110110172410/http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/lidnssummary.pdf> [accessed 21 January 2019]

20 World Health Organisation, ‘Diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases: Report of the joint WHO/FAO expert consultation’, *WHO Technical Report Series*, No. 916 (February 2002): <https://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/publications/trs916/summary/en/> [accessed 21 January 2019]

21 Public Health England, ‘Health matters: obesity and the food environment’ (March 2017): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment--2> [accessed 21 January 2019]

22 Marmot *et al.*, *Fair Society, Healthy Lives*, p 18: <http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report-pdf.pdf> [accessed 21 January 2019]

23 Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy, *Food without thought: How U.S. Farm Policy Contributes to Obesity* (March 2006): <https://www.iatp.org/sites/default/files/2018-01/Food%20Without%20Thought.%20How%20U.S.%20Farm%20Policy%20Contributes%20to%20Obesity.%20By%20Heather%20Schoonover%20%26%20Mark%20Muller.%20March%202006.pdf> [accessed 21 January 2019]

- How can those living in poverty be helped to adopt a healthier and more environmentally sustainable diet? The committee may wish to look at education and information, public sector food standards, reformulation and resizing of products.
- What is the role of supermarkets?
- What is the potential role of Local Authorities in securing the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the local population?
- How can social enterprise be encouraged?
- How can advertising be used to encourage healthy and sustainable diets?
- What can the UK learn from international food and poverty policy?
- What is the environmental impact of less healthy foods, such as fast food?
- Does healthy food necessarily have less of an environmental impact?
- What is the role of ingredients delivery services, or ‘recipe boxes’, and how can they be used to improve diet?
- What is the role of online food delivery services?

**32. We recommend the establishment of a special inquiry committee to consider the links between inequality, public health and food sustainability, to report by the end of March 2020.**

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF MEMBERS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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### Members

Earl of Courtown (in place of Baroness Evans of Bowes Park)  
 Lord Foulkes of Cumnock  
 Baroness Garden of Frognal  
 Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town  
 Lord Hope of Craighead  
 Lord Lang of Monkton  
 Lord Low of Dalston  
 Lord McFall of Alcluith (Chairman)  
 Lord Newby  
 Lord Smith of Hindhead  
 Lord Williams of Elvel

### Declarations of interest

The Earl of Courtown  
*No interests to declare*

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock  
*No interests to declare*

Baroness Garden of Frognal  
*No interests to declare*

Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town  
*Patron of an Alcohol and Drug treatment charity (Blenheim)*  
*Member, National Union of Labour and Socialist Clubs*

Lord Hope of Craighead  
*No interests to declare*

Lord Lang of Monkton  
*No interests to declare*

Lord Low of Dalston  
*Member, Disability Advisory Committee, Equality and Human Rights Commission*  
*Certain administrative support and support to APPG on Eye Health and Visual Impairment is given to the Member by RNIB*  
*Vice President, RNIB (no financial interest, but travel, accommodation, subsistence and some secretarial expenses covered)*  
*President, UK Association for Accessible Formats (no financial interest)*  
*President, Visionary (umbrella organisation of local associations for visually impaired people) (no financial interest, some expenses covered)*  
*Ambassador, Disability Rights UK*

Lord McFall of Alcluith  
*No interests to declare*

Lord Newby  
*No interests to declare*

Lord Smith of Hindhead  
*As CEO of the Association of Conservative Clubs - I have an involvement with the provision of gaming machines in Private Members Clubs. Namely categories B4 and B3A machines (moderate stakes and prizes)*

Lord Williams of Elvel  
*Proposed the special inquiry committee proposal on private healthcare*

## APPENDIX 2: LIST OF TITLES SUBMITTED

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The proposals we received this year were all published online on 10 January 2019. These are available at [https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/liaison/Special\\_Inquiry\\_Committee\\_Proposals\\_for\\_2019%e2%80%9320.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/liaison/Special_Inquiry_Committee_Proposals_for_2019%e2%80%9320.pdf). The titles of the proposals are listed below.

- Democracy and digital technologies (Baroness O’Neill of Bengarve)
- Do digital media threaten our democracy (Lord Lipsey)
- Election regulations in the UK (Lord Stevenson of Balmacara)
- Fairness between members of the House (Lord Balfe)
- Business confidence in financial services (Baroness Randerson)
- Cryptocurrencies and distributed ledger technology (Viscount Chandos)
- Future of ornamental horticulture (Baroness Fookes)
- Restoring trust between SMEs and financial institutions (Lord Cromwell)
- Regenerating market towns (Bishop of Ely)
- Abortion in the UK (Baroness Tonge and Baroness Barker)
- Barriers faced by working age disabled people (Baroness Thomas of Winchester and Baroness Campbell of Surbiton)
- Britain’s demographic challenge (Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts)
- Family policy in England (Lord Hylton)
- Food, Poverty, Health and the Environment (Lord Krebs and Baroness Boycott)
- Harnessing the value of NHS data (Lord Freyberg)
- Private Healthcare Sector (Lord Williams of Elvel)
- Social and economic impacts of the gambling industry (Bishop of St Albans)
- Barriers to integration and community cohesion (Baroness Flather)
- Gender discrimination and “honour”-based abuse (Baroness Cox)
- Islamophobia (Lord Sheikh)
- National Identity Cards (Lord Campbell-Savours)
- Reform of Family Law (Divorce & Financial Provision) (Baroness Deech and Baroness Shackleton of Belgravia)
- Violence in Prisons (Viscount Hailsham)
- Youth Crime (Lord Grade of Yarmouth)
- Plight of widows and others living in developing and fragile states (Lord Loomba)
- Refugees: Global and national challenges (Lord Dubs)
- UK’s fulfilment of the duties to prevent and punish the crime of genocide (Lord Alton of Liverpool)

## APPENDIX 3: TEMPLATE SPECIAL INQUIRY SUBMISSION FORM

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### Invitation to Members to submit special inquiry (previously known as *ad hoc*) committee proposals for 2019–2020

On behalf of the Liaison Committee, I am writing to invite members to suggest proposals for special inquiry (previously known as *ad hoc*) committees in the 2019–20 session. The deadline for submissions is the day the House rises for the Christmas recess, 20 December 2018.

Special inquiry committees are appointed to undertake a particular inquiry and cease to exist once they have reported to the House. Members are invited to send their suggestions for inquiry topics for special inquiry committees.

In previous years the proposals we have received have ranged from a sentence or two to several pages. In order to provide greater consistency, this year the Committee is inviting all members submitting proposals to use the headings suggested in the form accompanying this invitation. Copies of the form will also be available from the Printed Paper Office.

Proposals should be sent to the Clerk of the Liaison Committee, Philippa Tudor, in the internal mail or—preferably—by email: [hlliaisoncmttee@parliament.uk](mailto:hlliaisoncmttee@parliament.uk) no later than 20 December 2018.

All ideas submitted by then will be considered by the Liaison Committee using the following criteria for selection:

- Makes best use of the knowledge and experience of Members of the House
- Complements the work of Commons departmental select committees
- Addresses areas of policy that cross departmental boundaries
- The activity proposed should be capable of being confined to one session.

Members are also welcome to submit proposals to follow up particular aspects of the work of previous *ad hoc* Committees. The Liaison Committee expects to recommend up to four proposals for new special inquiry Committees (including a post-legislative scrutiny committee) for appointment early in the new session.

In reviewing proposals, the Liaison Committee takes into account the criteria listed above. In addition, the Committee may also take into account wider factors such as the balance of topics across the special inquiry committees (including in previous years), the work being undertaken by other Committees and within Government, and the possibility of early legislation on the subject matter. The Committee hopes that the new Committees will be appointed early in the new session, to allow them to start their work, particularly gathering evidence, well before the summer recess.

This invitation is being issued alongside the ongoing Liaison Committee review of Committees and is not a result of it.

MCFALL OF ALCLUITH

OCTOBER 2018

## **Liaison Committee**

### ***Proposal for a special inquiry (ad hoc) committee in session 2019–2020***

Note: Following feedback, the Liaison Committee has agreed this template for use by members wishing to propose an inquiry. Members are invited to use it as a guide, and to address each of the questions below. Members are asked to describe the proposal in 100–500 words.

*Title:*

*Name of member(s) of the House making the proposal:*

*Description of the proposal (in 100–500 words). If you are proposing a post-legislative scrutiny committee, please explain the aspects of the Act that you think particularly warrant scrutiny:*

*What would the inquiry be trying to achieve?*

*How does the proposal make best use of the knowledge and experience of Members of the House?*

*How does the proposal address areas of policy that cross departmental boundaries?*

*Is the proposed special inquiry committee capable of being completed in one year or less? (For reference, most special inquiry committees hold approximately 20 x 1-hour evidence sessions throughout the inquiry, but proposals for shorter inquiries are also welcome.)*

*Do you have any additional comments in relation to your proposal which you wish to draw to the attention of the Liaison Committee?*

*If you have any relevant interests that relate to your proposal please can you list them below.*