

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

1st Report, 2014 (Session 4)

Review of Parliamentary Reform

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Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Remit and membership

Remit:

- 1. The remit of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee is to consider and report on—
- (a) the practice and procedures of the Parliament in relation to its business;
- (b) whether a member's conduct is in accordance with these Rules and any Code of Conduct for members, matters relating to members' interests, and any other matters relating to the conduct of members in carrying out their Parliamentary duties;
- (c) the adoption, amendment and application of any Code of Conduct for members; and
- (d) matters relating to public appointments in Scotland.
- 2. Where the Committee considers it appropriate, it may by motion recommend that a member's rights and privileges be withdrawn to such extent and for such period as are specified in the motion.

(Standing Orders of the Scottish Parliament, Rule 6.4)

Membership:

Brian Adam (until 25 April 2013)
George Adam (from 16 May 2013)
Cameron Buchanan (from 10 September 2013)
Helen Eadie (until 9 November 2013)
John Lamont (until 10 September 2013)
Richard Lyle
Margaret McCulloch (until 3 September 2013)
Margaret McDougall (from 3 September 2013)
Fiona McLeod
Stewart Stevenson (Convener) (from 7 November 2013)
Dave Thompson (until 7 November 2013)

Committee Clerking Team:

Clerk to the Committee

Alison Walker Gillian Baxendine

Senior Assistant Clerk

Alastair Macfie **Neil Stewart**

Support Manager Sam Currie



Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

1st Report, 2014 (Session 4)

Review of Parliamentary Reform

The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows—

Introduction

- 1. In September 2012 major changes were introduced to the format and timetabling of parliamentary business. These reforms aimed to improve the topicality of proceedings and increase the Parliament's ability to respond quickly to emerging issues.
- 2. The key reforms included—
 - the creation of a restructured parliamentary working week by moving to morning committee meetings and afternoon plenary sessions;
 - plenary meetings on Tuesdays to allow Parliament to question the Scottish Government and debate topical matters earlier in the week;
 - the introduction of topical question time to enable backbenchers to question the Government at short notice on matters of significance.
- 3. The purpose of this report is to review the changes to determine how successful they have been in making parliamentary proceedings more topical and effective.

Background

4. The parliamentary reforms were introduced following proposals put forward by the Presiding Officer, Tricia Marwick MSP, in July 2011, which she asked the SPPA Committee to consider further. The Committee reported to Parliament in December 2011 with recommendations for changes to parliamentary procedures. Following consultation and feedback from the Parliamentary Bureau, a second

¹ Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. 2nd Report, 2011 (Session 4). Reform of Parliamentary Business Inquiry. Phase 1 report: remodelling the parliamentary week (SP Paper 57)

report by the Committee proposed Standing Orders amendments to give effect to a number of these changes.²

5. The focus of the reforms has primarily been on business in the Chamber. The Conveners Group has adopted its own reform agenda for committees and has taken the lead in this work.

Review of the changes

- 6. The Committee made a commitment in both its reports on parliamentary reform to review its impact. After a full year of operation, this is now an opportune moment to do so.
- 7. As part of its review the Committee has collected statistics and other information covering the period September 2012 to September 2013. The Committee has also consulted political party groups, the Independent / Green group and the Conveners Group, for their views. The responses can be found at annexe A of this report.³

Topical question time

- 8. One of the most significant reforms was the introduction of a new topical question time.
- 9. The deadline for lodging topical questions is noon on Monday, with topical question time usually taking place on Tuesday afternoons at 2.05 pm. This means that members now have an early opportunity in the parliamentary week to question the Scottish Government on issues which have emerged over the weekend.
- 10. There are normally one or two topical questions each week in a timeslot of up to 15 minutes. This compares to 10 questions listed in the Business Bulletin for general questions (in a 20 minute timeslot) and 20 portfolio questions in a 40 minute timeslot. The relatively generous time available for topical questions may explain why more supplementary questions are possible.

Issues raised at topical question time

11. Topical question time has often covered high-profile subjects likely to be of interest to the wider Scottish public. Questions have included—

- To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update following the recent winter weather conditions (22 January 2013)
- To ask the Scottish Government whether it will accept in full the recommendations of the Electoral Commission regarding the conduct of a referendum on Scotland separating from the rest of the United Kingdom. (29 January 2013)

² Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. 2nd Report, 2012 (Session 4). Parliamentary Reform - Standing Order rule changes (SP Paper 138)

³ Responses were received from the Conveners Group, the Scottish Conservatives, the Scottish Labour Party, the Scottish Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party. These can be found at annexe A. All references to party views in this report are taken from these responses.

- To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on recent reports expressing concern at the police handling of unauthorised protests (19 March 2013)
- To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the report, Shaping Scotland's Court Services (16 April 2013)
- To ask the Scottish Government what support will be given to families and communities affected by the liquidation of Scottish Coal (23 April 2013)
- 12. The reaction to topical question time has generally been positive. The Scottish Liberal Democrats called topical question time "worthwhile" and welcomed the opportunity for "probing supplementaries". Scottish Labour "largely welcomed" topical questions as "an effective way of being able to scrutinise the Scottish Government".
- 13. The Scottish Conservatives response expressed concern, however, at topical question time being used by the Scottish Government as an alternative to ministerial statements and called for clear guidance on the purpose and use of topical question time.
- 14. Media feedback has been that, on balance, topical question time has been a good initiative. The BBC's Scottish political editor, Brian Taylor, for example, has noted in his BBC blog that topical question time is a "welcome innovation" and stated—
 - "...plaudits to the Presiding Officer for this innovation of topicals. It works."5
- 15. On a number of occasions, the answers to topical questions have been followed up in media reports including stories relating to the employment dispute at the Grangemouth petrochemical plant,⁶ press regulation in Scotland,⁷ and legislation relating to dangerous dog attacks⁸.
- 16. The Committee notes that topical questions has allowed a range of current issues to be raised in the Chamber which are of relevance to the people of Scotland.

Supplementary questions

- 17. Topical question time has also allowed members the opportunity to develop a line of argument when questioning ministers via the use of supplementary questions.
- 18. Between September 2012 and September 2013, the average number of supplementary questions asked by members following each topical question was

⁴ 23 January 2013 blog http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-21248965

⁵ 24 September 2013 blog http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-24228134

⁶ The Scotsman, 9 October 2013. *Grangemouth petrochemical plant is burning issue at Scottish Parliament*

⁷ The Herald, 20 March 2013. *Hyslop favours Leveson approach to press regulation*

⁸ The Courier, 18 September 2013. *Justice secretary rules out review of dog laws*

- 4.6. By contrast, the average number of supplementaries for each portfolio and general question was 1.5.9
- 19. On one occasion, a topical question had ten supplementary questions.¹⁰ In this case, eight different members were able to contribute to the questioning, including members from each of the four largest parties.
- 20. The Committee believes that this has helped members in their important parliamentary role of holding the Scottish Government to account and responding to issues of the day.

Changed sitting patterns

- 21. A second major change was to sitting patterns, with committee meetings now taking place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and Chamber business on those afternoons.
- 22. Although the Scottish Conservatives were "struck by a sense of ambivalence" about the sitting pattern changes, they indicated no desire to return to the former timetable. The Scottish Liberal Democrats response commented on the reform changes as a whole and stated "as a headline, my colleagues… believe that the changes are working well".
- 23. The Scottish Labour response argued that the new sitting patterns have "created a level of consistency and clarity", but suggested that they have not allowed for any greater scrutiny of government business. The response noted that there were "mixed reports" about the effectiveness of reform and particularly in relation to the Tuesday afternoon plenary sessions.
- 24. No specific issues were raised by the Scottish National Party group on this change.
- 25. The Conveners Group noted that the revised sitting patterns have caused some difficulties for committees, particularly those committees meeting on a Thursday morning as they need to finish in time for general question time starting at 11.40am.
- 26. Statistics on cross-party groups and events and exhibitions have suggested that more activities are taking place on Tuesday evenings than was previously the case.

Views of the Committee

27. The Committee acknowledges that there have been some concerns expressed about the new sitting patterns, particularly, in relation to the time constraints faced by committees which meet on Thursday mornings. The Committee also acknowledges that restructuring the parliamentary week will not, in itself, deliver improved parliamentary proceedings.

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⁹ Based on data from September 2012 to February 2013

¹⁰ Topical question S4T-00132 on college budgets for 2012-13.

- 28. Nevertheless, the Committee is of the view that the overall impact of the sitting pattern changes has been positive.
- 29. They have created a more balanced week, in which a full range of parliamentary activities take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. They have also enabled topical questions and ministerial statements to take place on a Tuesday, allowing the Chamber to respond more quickly to events. Without the changed sitting patterns, the first opportunity to consider these topical items of business would have been Wednesday afternoon.

Additional members' business debate

- 30. The revised sitting patterns have also created time for a third members' business debate each week. This has routinely been scheduled after First Minister's question time on Thursdays.
- 31. In its submission, Scottish Labour noted that the new Thursday lunchtime slot has been popular with the majority of members, but commented that it clashed with cross-party group meetings and external groups' visits. The Scottish Conservatives expressed "general contentment" with three members' business debates a week.
- 32. The Committee has collated statistics on the impact of the additional debate. During the twelve months from September 2011 to September 2012 (before the change) there were 70 debates in total. In the year following the additional debate, there were 108 debates. Over the same time period, the total number of speeches at members' business increased from 539 to 907.
- 33. The additional members' business debate has therefore substantially increased the total number of participants in these debates. The average number of members speaking at each debate has slightly increased, from 7.7 speakers per debate to 8.4. Any concerns that the interest in members' business may be 'diluted' with an additional debate have therefore not been realised. Attendance at the new lunchtime slot for members' business on Thursday has been good.
- 34. These have all been positive developments. The Committee considers that the additional debate has been a success in allowing more backbench members to bring topics of cross-party interest to the Chamber.

Committees meeting at same time as Chamber

- 35. A new rule introduced in September 2012, Rule 12.3.3B, allows committees to meet at the same time as the Chamber if the Parliament so decides on a motion of the Parliamentary Bureau.
- 36. The only committee to use this rule has been the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing. On 26 September 2013 a motion was agreed to allow the Sub-Committee to meet at 1.00pm on a Thursday, until 20 December 2013. The motion specified that meetings had to be concluded before the start of Chamber business in the afternoon. The Bureau also agreed to review how well the arrangements had worked after three months. This review is due to take place shortly.

Views received by the Committee

- 37. The Scottish Conservatives were fairly relaxed about the change to allow committees to sit at the same time as the Chamber, where it made sense to do so. Scottish Labour indicated that it would reserve judgement on this issue, until the conclusion of the Bureau review of the experience of the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing.
- 38. The Conveners Group noted that the current rules in this area are rather inflexible. The Group cited the case of a committee which had to close a meeting at a crucial point when considering a draft report, because it would not have been possible to get the necessary approvals to continue. The Group suggested that the SPPA Committee should investigate possible mechanisms to allow more flexibility.
- 39. The Committee acknowledges there may be merit in bringing more flexibility to the rules. However, there are also downsides to committees meeting at the same time as the Chamber, which would need to be taken into account. The Committee proposes to conduct a separate piece of work to consider further the issues raised by the Conveners Group and possible solutions. In doing so the Committee will take into account the outcome of the Bureau's review of the experience of the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing.

Lodging questions - deadlines

- 40. The period between lodging questions and them being asked in the Chamber has been shortened, to enable backbenchers to ask more up to date questions on current affairs. The overall response to this change has been fairly positive, although Scottish Labour indicated that it had a "mixed response". The Scottish Liberal Democrats suggested that the reduced notice period was a good step forward.
- 41. The Committee's view is that the shortened deadlines for lodging questions have been an effective way of improving the topicality of question times.

Conclusion

- 42. The reform measures introduced in September 2012 represent the most significant changes to the organisation of parliamentary business since 1999.
- 43. The Committee acknowledges that there have been some concerns expressed about the new sitting patterns. For example, Thursday morning committee meetings are now required to conclude their business before general question time at 11.40am. The Committee has agreed to consider further the flexibility of the new rules on committees meeting at the same time as the Chamber, in a separate piece of work.
- 44. Overall, however, the Committee has concluded that the reforms have been successful in creating a more responsive and agile Parliament.
- 45. The Chamber now meets across three days rather than two. Members now have the opportunity to question ministers at the start of every meeting of the Chamber. The new innovation of topical question time has allowed members the

chance to raise current issues in the Chamber earlier in the week. The Committee welcomes all these developments.

46. Looking to the future, the Committee notes that the Presiding Officer has shown strong leadership in promoting a vision for parliamentary reform this session. The Committee shares her view that the Parliament must always look for opportunities to improve its practices and procedures. The Committee stands ready to play its role in considering any future parliamentary reforms.

ANNEXE A: CORRESPONDENCE

RESPONSE FROM CONVENERS GROUP

Thank you for your letter of 5 June which the Conveners Group considered at its meeting on 27 June 2013.

Your letter asks for views in a number of areas, but as you will be aware, the Group focussed its discussion on those areas that are of direct relevance to Committees, in the knowledge that views on other areas can be fed into business managers.

The Group's views can be summarised as follows:

Timing of Committee meetings

The Group is aware that the revised sitting patterns are causing some difficulties for committees, particularly those committees meeting on a Thursday morning as they need to finish in time for General Questions starting at 11.40am. Some committees have routinely started meetings at 9am. However it can still be difficult at times for them to deal with all of the issues on their agenda and in future, even earlier start times may have to be considered which could have an impact on witnesses, particularly those who have to travel.

On a wider point, the Group wondered whether your committee would be assessing the impact of the revised sitting patterns on the Parliament as a whole. For example, has there been an impact on the number of people attending Wednesday and Thursday evening parliamentary events?

Ability of Committees to meet at the same time as the Chamber

The Group appreciates that it is possible for committees to meet at the same time as the chamber if the Bureau agrees to such a request and lodges a motion to be agreed by the Parliament. This has happened recently with the Justice subcommittee on policing. However, the Group feels that the current position is rather inflexible. To illustrate this, a committee had reached a crucial point in its final consideration of a report but the meeting had to close and deliberations had to cease. Under the current rules, it would not have been possible to get the necessary approvals for the committee to continue. There have also been instances where conveners feel they have had to shut down evidence sessions which would have benefitted from being longer.

The Group appreciates the reasons why it is not felt desirable for committees to meet at the same time as the chamber, but it is also aware of committee workloads and the fact it is not always possible to predict in advance that additional time will be required. The Group would therefore suggest that your committee investigate whether it is possible to introduce a mechanism which would allow for more flexibility.

Use of electronic devices during Committee meetings

The Group had previously agreed to a pilot exercise to allow a small number of committee members to receive their papers digitally as an alternative to hard copies. This exercise involves members of the Health and Sport and Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committees and will run until the October recess. During this pilot, officials will work with members to monitor comments on ease of use and to identify the potential for further improvements to be made.

The pilot will also provide an opportunity for members and clerks to obtain a clearer understanding of how digital devices are used by members in a committee meeting setting and to consider whether there is likely to be a requirement for any guidelines of protocols to be developed.

I hope this is helpful and the Group looks forward to hearing how your review is progressing.

ELAINE SMITH MSP DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER 27 JUNE 2013

RESPONSE FROM THE SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVES

Following your letter of 5th June I have consulted with the Conservative MSP group and taken their views on the impact of the recent changes to Parliamentary procedure. There was no clear collective view on the points you raised but I have tried, where possible, to summarise the general feeling of the group as I found it.

There was general contentment with the existing arrangement of three members' business debates a week, which it felt gave ample opportunity to raise local and constituency issues. Members were also fairly relaxed about the proposal to allow Committees to sit at the same time as Chamber business is conducted, where it makes sense to do so.

With regard to the change to Chamber business on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday there was a sense of ambivalence. It would be fair to say that the MSP group have not been struck by any great improvement in the quality of debate and scrutiny. That said, neither was there a strong desire to return to the former week structure. It was noted by some that the combination of both committee and chamber business on the Tuesday had impacted on their activity on the Monday, with a feeling that their constituency work had suffered as a result.

It has been suggested that rather than focussing purely on what time and how much of it is allocated to debates within the Parliamentary week, we might consider carefully how that time is used. There are too many debates which are undersubscribed and MSPs are being drafted in by their parties to contribute on issues with which they have little interest or desire to speak about in order to make

up numbers. This does nothing for the quality of debate or Parliamentary scrutiny. In such cases it would be far better to give the MSPs, who are interested and who wish to contribute longer time allocations so that we get more considered and indepth speeches rather than have a number of trite contributions which barely scratch the surface of the matter at hand. Given that there are also occasions where debates are oversubscribed it may be worthwhile for the Committee to look at how the system could be made more flexible and responsive to the needs of Members.

Concerns were raised about the use of Topical Question time. There have been occasions where the Government has seen Topical Question time as an alternative to Ministerial Statements. This form of question time was introduced as a means for backbench MSPs to hold the Scottish Government to account. Therefore it must not be used as a general opportunity for the Government to perfunctorily meet its Ministerial obligations to report to MSPs on matters of importance and proactively keep Parliament informed. In particular it prevents the in-depth scrutiny of issues that it was designed to encourage. Accordingly there must be clear guidance on the purpose and use of Topical Question time, preventing any trends towards making it a catch-all time for Government announcements.

The use of electronic equipment during Chamber and Committee business consistently raised the same points. In the context of this question it may be more pertinent to consider what such equipment may be used for as opposed to whether it is used. Ipads and similar tablet devices are increasingly used by members to read speeches and briefing materials from during debates and committee meetings. In these cases these devices are simply used as a substitute to paper copies and as such we see no reason to prohibit their use, indeed on environmental grounds it should be welcomed.

However these devices may also be used to e-mail, access social media and work in general. Conservative MSPs were keen to ensure that the physical use of any device did not distract from Parliamentary proceedings either in the Chamber or in Committee and was generally used in a courteous manner. However there is an acknowledged change in working practices and members were keen that the Parliament kept pace with these changes. Bearing this in mind it is strongly suggested that good Wi-Fi coverage is provided in the Chamber and Committee rooms, particularly since e-mails to Members are a far less disruptive way to communicate with them than the passing of written paper messages via a member of the security team.

Using electronic devices for social media is more contentious. It may be used by some members to raise the profile of debates and better engage with the public and in that sense it would be welcome. However if it is used during debates and discussions it must be used in a way which shows due respect to other Members and the Parliament. Specifically there is a danger that Members would engage with each other using social media during sittings, which could lead to parallel debates to those in the Chamber or Committee. This would both detract from Parliamentary business and be a discourtesy to the Members participating. With

this in mind the Committee may wish to consider some guidelines for Members in respect of the use of social media whilst in the Chamber or Committee.

I hope this is helpful.

JOHN LAMONT MSP CHIEF WHIP AND BUSINESS MANAGER 26 JUNE 2013

RESPONSE FROM THE SCOTTISH LABOUR PARTY

I refer to the correspondence received earlier this year from your predecessor Dave Thompson MSP concerning the effectiveness of parliamentary reform.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to put forward the views of the Labour Group on the changes and will respond to the bullet points in the same order listed in the letter dated 5 June 2013.

Firstly, when Committees meet in the mornings and there are Plenary Sessions in the afternoon this has, in my own view and that of many of my colleagues, created a level of consistency and clarity, i.e. Committees in the morning and plenary sessions in the afternoon. However, we would like to point out that we have received a number of concerns from members who advise that, whilst we have additional Tuesday afternoon sessions, the outcome has not allowed for any greater scrutiny of government business.

Secondly, in respect of Committees being allowed to meet at the same time as Plenary Sessions, you will be aware that the Bureau has allowed the Justice Sub-Committee to meet at the same time as business in the main Chamber. You will also be aware that there will be a review of this arrangement after this has been allowed for a period of 6 months, therefore, I reserve judgement until this review has taken place.

Thirdly, the introduction of Topical Question Time has been largely welcomed as an effective way of being able to scrutinise the Scottish Government.

Fourthly, in terms of members' business debates, it would appear that the Thursday lunchtime slot has been popular with the majority of members, however, it has been pointed out that this slot does clash with cross-party groups and is at a time when traditionally external groups would be visiting the parliament.

Fifthly, in respect of the shorter periods between lodging questions and them being asked in the Chamber, I have had a mixed response on this. It has been suggested that the Chamber Desk could provide assistance by notifying them directly when the Desk has not received a submission. However, I do appreciate this is an operational matter for the Chief Executive.

Finally, I have received representations in connection with the use of technology in the Chamber. I think it is fair to say that a number of members already make use of technology in the Chamber, particularly by means of ipads, smart phones and BlackBerrys.

It may be beneficial to allow for better use of devices to reduce the printing of parliamentary documents which, of course, would be more environmentally friendly, however, I do recognise that this would only be in respect of documents that should be provided in the Chamber and that devices should not be used for research purposes for material available on the internet.

In conclusion, I would advise that I have received mixed reports from colleagues about the effectiveness of reform and particularly in relation to the Tuesday afternoon Plenary Sessions, but on a more positive note Topical Question Time has been largely welcomed.

I hope you find this response helpful. I am more than happy to discuss this at a future committee in person if you feel this would be useful.

PAUL MARTIN
MEMBER OF SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
13 NOVEMBER 2013

RESPONSE FROM THE SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Thank you for your letter concerning the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's consideration of the impact of the recent parliamentary reform.

As a headline, my colleagues in the Scottish Liberal Democrats' parliamentary party believe that the changes are working well. We particularly see the introduction of a time for topical questions and the shortening of the notice period for other questions as good steps forward.

Topical questions have been worthwhile and, on several occasions, have benefited from the Presiding Officer's decision to call a number of members for probing supplementaries.

We would encourage the calling of more supplementaries to questions tabled for portfolio and general questions to allow further topical issues to be explored by members present in the Chamber.

If the committee was minded to make changes to the arrangements, it could perhaps consider moving the deadline for tabling First Minister's questions until after the conclusion of Topical Questions. This will allow an urgent issue, which had already been the subject of a Topical Question, to be raised again with the First Minister if a member felt there were still outstanding issues to explore.

On the issues of electronic devices in the chamber, my colleagues would support a relaxation so that, in particular, information relevant to the debate can be sent to members by staff without needing to attend the special box at the back of the Chamber.

I hope this response is helpful.

ALISON MCINNES MSP BUSINESS MANAGER SCOTTISH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS 2 OCTOBER 2013

RESPONSE FROM THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

Thank you for your letter regarding recent parliamentary reform changes which came into effect in September 2012.

I am replying on behalf of the SNP Parliamentary Group as Group Convener.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. The original letter was sent to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and there was a mix-up in communication as to if the Scottish Government or party should be responding.

No specific issues or matters were raised by the group either way on all points raised in your letter with no further action required.

GIL PATERSON
CONVENER
SNP SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
8 OCTOBER 2013

ANNEXE B: EXTRACT FROM MINUTES

4th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 14 March 2013

Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed to take items 4, 5 and 6 in private.

Reform of parliamentary business: remodelling the parliamentary week (in private): The Committee considered its approach to a review of progress and agreed to consider a further paper, in private, at a future meeting.

6th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 25 April 2013

Reform of parliamentary business: remodelling the parliamentary week - review of progress (in private): The Committee considered a note by the Clerk. The Committee agreed to consult MSPs on issues arising from the review and to write to Patrick Harvie MSP on the issues he raised.

8th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 23 May 2013

Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed to take item 6 in private.

Reform of parliamentary business: remodelling the parliamentary week: review of progress: The Committee agreed a letter to send to Business Managers and Conveners Group.

15th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 21 November 2013

Reform of parliamentary business: remodelling the parliamentary week - review of progress (in private): The Committee considered consultation responses and agreed to consider a draft report.

16th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 5 December 2013

Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed that its consideration of a draft report on its review of Parliamentary reform and a paper on Hybrid Bills should be taken in private at future meetings.

17th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4), Thursday 19 December 2013

Reform of parliamentary business: remodelling the parliamentary week - review of progress (in private): The Committee agreed a draft report.

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