



House of Commons
Standards and Privileges
Committee

Minutes of Proceedings

Session 2007–08

*Ordered by The House of Commons
to be published 26 November 2008*

The Committee on Standards and Privileges

The Committee on Standards and Privileges is appointed by the House of Commons to oversee the work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; to examine the arrangements proposed by the Commissioner for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Interests and any other registers of interest established by the House; to review from time to time the form and content of those registers; to consider any specific complaints made in relation to the registering or declaring of interests referred to it by the Commissioner; to consider any matter relating to the conduct of Members, including specific complaints in relation to alleged breaches in the Code of Conduct which have been drawn to the Committee's attention by the Commissioner; and to recommend any modifications to the Code of Conduct as may from time to time appear to be necessary.

Current membership

Rt Hon Sir George Young Bt MP (*Conservative, North West Hampshire*) (Chairman)
Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP (*Labour, Rother Valley*)
Rt Hon David Curry MP (*Conservative, Skipton & Ripon*)
Mr Andrew Dismore MP (*Labour, Hendon*)
Nick Harvey MP (*Liberal Democrat, North Devon*)
Mr Elfyn Llwyd MP (*Plaid Cymru, Meirionnydd Nant Conwy*)
Mr Chris Mullin MP (*Labour, Sunderland South*)
The Hon Nicholas Soames MP (*Conservative, Mid Sussex*)
Paddy Tipping MP (*Labour, Sherwood*)
Dr Alan Whitehead MP (*Labour, Southampton Test*)

Powers

The constitution and powers of the Committee are set out in Standing Order No. 149. In particular, the Committee has power to order the attendance of any Member of Parliament before the committee and to require that specific documents or records in the possession of a Member relating to its inquiries, or to the inquiries of the Commissioner, be laid before the Committee. The Committee has power to refuse to allow its public proceedings to be broadcast. The Law Officers, if they are Members of Parliament, may attend and take part in the Committee's proceedings, but may not vote.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at: www.parliament.uk/sandp. A list of Reports of the Committee in the present Parliament is at the back of this volume.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Mr Steve Priestley, Mrs Sarah Hartwell-Naguib (Second Clerk) and Ms Jane Cooper (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to The Clerk of the Committee on Standards and Privileges, Journal Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 6615.

Proceedings of the Committee

Tuesday 13 November 2007

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Mr Chris Mullin

The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Members' correspondence**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on complaints against Mr Elfyn Llwyd, Mr Adam Price and Mr Hywell Williams.**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till tomorrow at 6 pm.]

Wednesday 14 November 2007

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Mr Chris Mullin

The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

The Committee deliberated.

1. **Conduct of Mr Elfyn Llwyd, Mr Adam Price and Mr Hywell Williams**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 31 read and agreed to.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendices be the First Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 December 2007 at 10.30 am.]

Wednesday 4 December 2007

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Chris Mullin

The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Unauthorised disclosure of Sixth Report, Session 2006–07**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Section 59, Electoral Administration Act 2006 (Commencement)**

The Committee considered this matter.

4. **Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on complaints against Mr Norman Baker, Mr Malcolm Bruce and Mr Sadiq Khan.**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 December 2007 at 10.30 am.]

Tuesday 11 December 2007

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Conduct of Mr Norman Baker, Mr Malcolm Bruce and Mr Sadiq Khan**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 35 read and agreed to.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendices be the Second Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 January 2008 at 10.30 am.]

Tuesday 15 January 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

The Committee considered this matter.

Mr Elfyn Llwyd declared that, in view of remarks he had made in his capacity as Parliamentary Leader of Plaid Cymru concerning the conduct of the Rt Hon Peter Hain, the Member for Neath and Secretary of State for Wales, regarding the reporting and registration of donations to his campaign for election as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, he would play no part in Committee proceedings relating to any complaint against Mr Hain about this matter.

2. Publications funded from the Communications Allowance

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 read and agreed to.

A Paper was ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendix be the Third Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 January 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 22 January 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames

Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Conduct of Mr Derek Conway**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 11 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 12 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 13 to 20 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 21 and 22 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 23 to 27 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 28 to 31 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 32 and 33 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 34 to 37 read, amended and agreed to.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, and Appendices be the Fourth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5 February 2008 at 9.30 am.]

Tuesday 5 February 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey

Mr Elfyn Llwyd
Mr Chris Mullin
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

Mr Elfyn Llwyd withdrew, pursuant to Declaration [15 January].

2. **Conduct of Mr Peter Hain**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 read and agreed to.

A Paper was ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendix be the Fifth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Mr Elfyn Llwyd returned to the meeting.

3. Employment of family members by Members of Parliament

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 February 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 19 February 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Employment of family members by Members of Parliament

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 February 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 26 February 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Employment: Proposals for consultation**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 32 read and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Sixth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 March 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 11 March 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **The complaints system and the criminal law**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Disclosure of Specialist Advisers' interests**

The Committee considered this matter.

4. **Employment of family members by Members of Parliament**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 18 March 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 18 March 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Scope of application of the Code of Conduct**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Employment of family members through the Staffing Allowance**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 14 read and agreed to.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendices be the Seventh Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 April 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 1 April 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The committee considered this matter.

2. **Publications funded through the Communications Allowance**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Section 59, Electoral Administration Act 2006 (Commencement)**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 29 April 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 29 April 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron

Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey

Mr Chris Mullin
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The complaints system and the Criminal Law

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

A Paper was ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendix be the Eighth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

3. Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on the complaint against Mr George Osborne

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Publications funded from the Communications Allowance

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chairman report the outcome of the Committee's consideration to the Members' Estimate Committee.—(*The Chairman.*)

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 May 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 13 May 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on the Complaint against Mr Speaker

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Conduct of Mr Speaker

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 6 read and agreed to.

A Paper was ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendix be the Ninth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

4. Conduct of Mr George Osborne

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 18 read and agreed to.

A Paper was ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendix be the Tenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

5. Disclosure by Members of confidential information

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3 June 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 3 June 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Chris Mullin

The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on the complaint against Sir Robert Smith

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Conduct of Sir Robert Smith

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 6 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 7 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 8 and 9 read and agreed to.

A Paper was ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendix be the Eleventh Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

4. **Section 59, Electoral Administration Act 2006 (Commencement)**

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **Home Affairs Committee: Unauthorised disclosure of Chairman's draft Report (First Special Report of the Home Affairs committee, Session 2007–08)**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 17 June 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 17 June 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Request by Mrs Caroline Spelman to the Parliamentary Commissioner for an investigation of allegations of misuse by her of Parliamentary allowances in relation to employment of staff.**

Ordered, That the Commissioner have leave, if he think fit, to investigate, at Mrs Spelman's request, allegations of misuse by her of Parliamentary allowances in relation to employment of staff.—(*The Chairman.*)

3. **Home Affairs Committee: Unauthorised disclosure of Chairman's draft Report (First Special Report of the Home Affairs Committee, Session 2007–08)**

The Rt Hon Keith Vaz, a Member of the House, gave evidence.

The witness withdrew.

Mr Vernon Hunte, former Senior Parliamentary Officer, Office of Keith Vaz, gave evidence.

The witness withdrew.

The Committee considered this matter.

4. **Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on the complaint against Sir Nicholas and Lady Winterton**

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **Conduct of Sir Nicholas and Lady Winterton**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 5 to 8 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 9 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 10 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 11 to 15 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 16 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 17 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 18 to 20 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 21 read and agreed to.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, and Appendices be the Twelfth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 July 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 1 July 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Review of Parliamentary Allowances (Third Report of the Members' Estimate Committee, Session 2007–08)**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Declaration of Interests in relation to Written Notices and other written Parliamentary proceedings**

The Committee considered this matter.

4. **Section 59, Electoral Administration Act (Commencement)**

The Committee considered this matter.

5. **Home Affairs Committee: Unauthorised disclosure of Chairman’s draft Report (First Special Report of the Home Affairs Committee, Session 2007–08)**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 July 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 15 July 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Details of family members recorded in the Register of Members’ Interests**

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved,—That the information recorded in the Register of Members’ Interests as regards details of relatives employed by Members should not extend beyond that agreed by the House on 27 March.—(*The Chairman*)

3. **Section 59, Electoral Administration Act 2006 (Commencement)**

The Committee considered this matter.

4. **Ending Dual Reporting of Donations: Interim Report**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman’s draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 7 read, amended and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, be the Thirteenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

5. **Home Affairs Committee: Unauthorised disclosure of Chairman’s draft Report (First Special Report of the Home Affairs Committee, Session 2007–08)**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 7 October 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 7 October 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Audit and Assurance of MPs' Allowances (Cm 7460)

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Section 59, Electoral Administration Act (Commencement)

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on complaints against Ed Balls and Yvette Cooper

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Conduct of Ed Balls and Yvette Cooper

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 read and agreed to.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, and Appendices be the Fourteenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 21 October 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 21 October 2008

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey

Mr Elfyn Llwyd
Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral Report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on complaints against Mr Mark Hunter**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Conduct of Mr Mark Hunter**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 5 and 6 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 7 to 10 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 11 to 13 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 14 to 17 read, amended and agreed to.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report, as amended, and Appendices be the Sixteenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

4. **Additional Costs Allowance: Main Homes**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 7 read and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fifteenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

5. **Audit and Assurance of MPs' Allowances (Cm 7460)**

The Committee considered this matter.

6. **Section 59 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (commencement)**

The Committee considered this matter.

7. **Opposition Front-Bench Spokesmen: Registration of financial support**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 28 October 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 28 October 2008

Members present:
Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore

Nick Harvey
Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Audit and Assurance of MPs' Allowances (Cm 7460)**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 2 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 3 to 5 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 6 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 7 to 14 read and agreed to.

Paragraph 15 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraph 16 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 17 and 18 read, amended and agreed to.

A paragraph—(*The Chairman*)—brought up, read the first and second time and inserted.

Paragraph 19 read and agreed to (now paragraph 20).

A Paper was ordered to be appended to the Report.

Ordered, That the Report, as amended, and Appendix be the Seventeenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

3. **Privilege Cases (unauthorised disclosure of select committee proceedings)**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 November 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 11 November 2008

Members present:
Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Oral report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Memorandum submitted by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on complaint against Ms Dari Taylor**

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Ms Dari Taylor**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 12 read and agreed to.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report and Appendices be the Eighteenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 25 November 2008 at 9.30 am

Tuesday 25 November 2008

Members present:
Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron
Mr David Curry
Mr Andrew Dismore
Nick Harvey

Mr Chris Mullin
The Hon Nicholas Soames
Mr Paddy Tipping
Dr Alan Whitehead

Ordered, That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 150, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards do attend the meeting.—(*The Chairman.*)

The Commissioner attended accordingly.

1. **Use of pre-paid envelopes and official stationery**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 read and agreed to.

Paragraphs 6 to 8 read, amended and agreed to.

Paragraphs 9 to 15 read and agreed to.

A paper was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Nineteenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

2. **Premature disclosure of select committee papers**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 12 read and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Twentieth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Written evidence was ordered to be reported to the House for printing with the Report.

Ordered, That the transcript of the oral evidence taken by the Committee on 17 June be reported to the House.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 December 2008 at 9.30 am