



HOUSE OF LORDS

House Committee

1st Report of Session 2009-10

**SSRB Review of Financial Support
for Members of the House of Lords**

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The House Committee

The House Committee is appointed each session to set the policy framework for the administration of the House and to provide non-executive guidance to the Management Board; to approve the House's strategic, business and financial plans; to agree the annual Estimates and Supplementary Estimates; to supervise the arrangements relating to Members' expenses; and to approve the House of Lords Annual Report.

Current membership

The members of the House Committee are:

- Lord Baker of Dorking
- Lord Brabazon of Tara
- Lord Bradley
- Lord Craig of Radley
- Baroness D'Souza
- Baroness Hayman (*Chairman*)
- Baroness Hollis of Heigham
- Lord McNally
- Baroness Royall of Blaisdon
- Lord Strathclyde
- Lord Tordoff
- Lord Wakeham

General information

General information about the House of Lords and its committees is on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/lords/index.cfm>

Contacts for the House Committee

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

The telephone number for enquiries regarding the Committee's work is 020 7219 6644.

**FIRST REPORT OF SESSION 2009-10
FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE**

**SSRB REVIEW OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT
FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS**

1. The House Committee initiated the review by the SSRB of the issues surrounding financial support for members of the House of Lords in recognition of the need for change and for a system which provided “clarity and transparency, accountability and public acceptability.” The SSRB’s report was published on 26 November.
2. We thank the SSRB for their detailed consideration of the complex issues involved. We particularly welcome the recognition by the SSRB of the value of the work done by the House and of the commitment of individual members to contribute to public life through their parliamentary work.
3. We accept the conclusion of the SSRB that the time has now come for a new system which addresses concerns with the present arrangements and protects and enhances the reputation of the House and its Members.
4. We recommend that the House accepts the architecture and principles of the proposed new system. We recommend that the House Committee now works to prepare resolutions to implement the proposals on a timescale which allows a new system to be operational from the start of the new Parliament.
5. Prior to implementation, we recommend that the views of members should be taken into account and inform the final resolutions to be put before the House. The SSRB’s report asks the House to consider a number of issues detailed by the review and makes 26 specific recommendations for action. In line with our proposals in paragraph 4 above, we would propose to set up an ad hoc group to consider and consult on issues in the report and advise on their implementation. The membership of the ad hoc group would comprise backbenchers nominated by the party leaders and convenor. The group would report to the House Committee.
6. We further propose that the new system and its consequences for the House be carefully monitored after implementation. The House Committee should conduct such monitoring and report on the effects of implementation of the new system after a year of operation.
7. **We invite the House to agree:**
 - **the architecture and principles of the new system proposed by the SSRB (para. 4)**
 - **that the House Committee now works to prepare resolutions to implement the proposals on a timescale which allows a new system to be operational from the start of the new Parliament (para. 4)**
 - **that an ad hoc group of members should be established (para. 5)**
 - **that the House Committee should monitor and report on the effects of implementation of the new system after a year of operation (para. 6)**