



House of Commons

Tuesday 12 December 2023

Votes and Proceedings

The House met at 11.30 am.

Prayers

- 1 Speaker's Statement: Resignation of the Chair of the Defence Committee and arrangements for the election of a successor**
- 2 Questions to the Minister for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs**
- 3 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross (Status) Bill: Presentation (Standing Order No. 57)**

Dame Maria Miller, supported by Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger, Chris Elmore, Steve Brine, Julie Elliott, Harriett Baldwin, Bob Blackman, Layla Moran, Taiwo Owatemi and Sir James Duddridge, presented a Bill to make provision about the status of, and privileges and immunities in connection with, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the International Committee of the Red Cross; and for connected purposes.

Bill read the first time; to be read a second time on Friday 19 January 2024, and to be printed (Bill 140).

- 4 Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (Sentencing Guidelines) Bill: Presentation (Standing Order No. 57)**

Dame Maria Miller presented a Bill to require the Sentencing Council to issue sentencing guidelines in respect of sections 58 and 59 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861; and for connected purposes.

Bill read the first time; to be read a second time on Friday 19 January 2024, and to be printed (Bill 141).

- 5 Public Transport (Rural Areas) Bill: Presentation (Standing Order No. 57)**

Sarah Dyke presented a Bill to set minimum service levels for the provision of public transport in rural areas, including for access to sites of employment and education; and for connected purposes.

Bill read the first time; to be read a second time on Friday 26 January 2024, and to be printed (Bill 51).

- 6 Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill: Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill be now read a second time.

Amendment moved, to leave out from 'That' to the end of the Question and add 'That this House, while affirming support for securing the UK's borders, reforming the broken

asylum system and ending dangerous small boat crossings, declines to give a Second Reading to the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill because the Bill will not work to tackle people smuggling gangs, end small boat crossings or achieve the core purposes of the Bill, will lead to substantial costs to the UK taxpayer every year whilst applying to less than one per cent of those who claim asylum in the UK, threatens the UK's compliance with international law, further undermines the potential to establish security and returns agreements with other countries and does not prevent the return of relocated individuals who commit serious crimes in Rwanda back to the UK.'—(Yvette Cooper.)

Question proposed, That the Amendment be made.

The Deputy Speaker announced a time limit on backbench speeches (Standing Order No. 47(1)).

Question put.

The House divided.

Division No. 26

Ayes: 269 (Tellers: Jeff Smith, Colleen Fletcher)

Noes: 337 (Tellers: Mark Fletcher, Amanda Solloway)

Question negatived.

Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 62(2)), That the Bill be now read a second time.

The House divided.

Division No. 27

Ayes: 313 (Tellers: Mark Fletcher, Amanda Solloway)

Noes: 269 (Tellers: Colleen Fletcher, Jeff Smith)

Question agreed to and Bill read a second time.

7 Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill: Programme

Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 83A(7)), That the following provisions shall apply to the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill:

Committal

(1) The Bill shall be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Proceedings in Committee of the whole House, on Consideration and on Third Reading

(2) Proceedings in Committee of the whole House, any proceedings on Consideration and proceedings on Third Reading shall be completed either in two days or in three days, in accordance with the following provisions of this Order.

(3) Proceedings in Committee—

(a) shall be taken on each of the first and second days in the order shown in the first column of the following Table, and

(b) shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the times specified in the second column of the Table.

TABLE

Proceedings

Time for conclusion of proceedings

First day

Clauses 2 and 4; new Clauses and new Schedules relating to the subject matter of those Clauses

Six hours after the commencement of proceedings on the Bill on the first day.

Second day

Clauses 3 and 5 to 10; remaining new Clauses and new Schedules; Clause 1; remaining proceedings on the Bill

Six hours after the commencement of proceedings on the Bill on the second day.

(4) If there are no proceedings on Consideration, proceedings on Third Reading shall be taken on the second day, and shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour after their commencement.

(5) If there are proceedings on Consideration—

(a) those proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the third day, and

(b) proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day.

Programming committee

(6) Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings in Committee of the whole House, to any proceedings on Consideration or to proceedings on Third Reading.

Other proceedings

(7) Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.—(Mike Wood.)

The House divided.

Division No. 28

Ayes: 332 (Tellers: Mark Fletcher, Amanda Solloway)

Noes: 61 (Tellers: Gavin Newlands, Peter Grant)

Question agreed to.

8 Statutory Instruments: Motions for Approval

(1) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Representation of the People (Overseas Electors etc.) (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2023, which were laid before this House on 23 October, in the last Session of Parliament, be approved.—(Mike Wood.)

The Deputy Speaker's opinion as to the decision of the Question was challenged.

Division deferred until tomorrow (Standing Order No. 41A).

(2) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Judicial Pensions (Remediable Service etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023, which were laid before this House on 13 November, be approved.—(Mike Wood.)

Question agreed to.

(3) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Major Sporting Events (Income Tax Exemption) (World Athletics Indoor Championships

Glasgow 24) Regulations 2023, which were laid before this House on 23 October, in the last Session of Parliament, be approved.—(*Mike Wood.*)

Question agreed to.

(4) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Regulations 2023, which were laid before this House on 7 November, be approved.—(*Mike Wood.*)

The Deputy Speaker's opinion as to the decision of the Question was challenged.

Division deferred until tomorrow (Standing Order No. 41A).

(5) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Hydrogen Production Revenue Support (Directions, Eligibility and Counterparty) Regulations 2023, which were laid before this House on 8 November, be approved.—(*Mike Wood.*)

Question agreed to.

(6) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (Codes of Practice) (Revision of Codes A, B, C, D and H and New Code I) Order 2023, which was laid before this House on 16 October, in the last Session of Parliament, be approved.—(*Mike Wood.*)

Question agreed to.

(7) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Agriculture (Delinked Payments and Consequential Provisions) (England) Regulations 2023, which were laid before this House on 7 November, be approved.—(*Mike Wood.*)

Question agreed to.

(8) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Representation of the People (Overseas Electors etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023, which were laid before this House on 23 October, in the last Session of Parliament, be approved.—(*Mike Wood.*)

The Deputy Speaker's opinion as to the decision of the Question was challenged.

Division deferred until tomorrow (Standing Order No. 41A).

9 Business of the House

Ordered, That notices of Amendments, new Clauses and new Schedules to be moved in Committee in respect of the Post Office (Horizon System) Compensation Bill may be accepted by the Clerks at the Table before it has been read a second time.—(*Mike Wood.*)

10 Public petitions

(1) A public petition from residents of the constituency of Linlithgow and East Falkirk relating to frozen British pensions was presented and read by Martyn Day.

(2) A public petition from residents of the constituency of Blackpool South relating to Public Service Obligation routes was presented and read by Scott Benton.

(3) A public petition from residents of the constituency of Twickenham relating to the Teddington Direct River Abstraction project was presented and read by Munira Wilson.

11 Adjournment

Subject: Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week (Hannah Bardell)

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.—(*Mike Wood.*)

Adjourned at 8.14 pm until tomorrow.

Lindsay Hoyle

Speaker

Other Proceedings

Changes to Notices Given

12 Dangerous Dogs (Licensing) Bill

Order for Second Reading on Friday 23 February 2024, read and discharged.

Bill to be read a second time on Friday 7 June 2024.

13 Mobile Homes Act 1983 (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading on Friday 23 February 2024, read and discharged.

Bill to be read a second time on Friday 7 June 2024.

14 Arm's-length Bodies (Accountability to Parliament) Bill

Order for Second Reading on Friday 23 February 2024, read and discharged.

Bill to be read a second time on Friday 17 May 2024.

15 Anonymity of Suspects Bill

Order for Second Reading on Friday 23 February 2024, read and discharged.

Bill to be read a second time on Friday 17 May 2024.

16 Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (Amendment) Bill

Order for Second Reading on Friday 23 February 2024, read and discharged.

Bill to be read a second time on Friday 26 April 2024.

17 BBC Licence Fee Non-Payment (Decriminalisation for Over-75s) Bill

Order for Second Reading on Friday 23 February 2024, read and discharged.

Bill to be read a second time on Friday 26 April 2024.

18 Public Sector Exit Payments (Limitation) Bill

Order for Second Reading on Friday 23 February 2024, read and discharged.

Bill to be read a second time on Friday 19 April 2024.

19 Green Belt (Protection) Bill

Order for Second Reading on Friday 23 February 2024, read and discharged.

Bill to be read a second time on Friday 19 April 2024.

General Committees: Reports

20 Criminal Justice Bill Committee

Hannah Bardell (Chair) reported:

(1) That the Committee had come to the following Resolution, That, subject to the discretion of the Chair, any written evidence received by the Committee shall be reported to the House for publication; and

(2) written evidence.

Written evidence to be published.

21 Media Bill Committee

Martin Vickers (Chair) reported:

(1) written evidence submitted to the Committee; and

(2) the Bill as amended.

Written evidence to be published.

Bill, as amended, to be considered tomorrow; and to be printed (Bill 139).

22 Third Delegated Legislation Committee

Stewart Hosie (Chair) reported the draft York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023.

23 Fourth Delegated Legislation Committee

James Gray (Chair) reported the draft Hydrogen Production Revenue Support (Directions, Eligibility and Counterparty) Regulations 2023.

General Committees: Appointments

The Speaker appoints the Chair of General Committees and members of Programming Sub-Committees, and allocates Statutory Instruments to Delegated Legislation Committees.

The Committee of Selection nominates Members to serve on General Committees (and certain Members to serve on Grand Committees).

24 Criminal Justice Bill Committee

Members: Stephen Hammond discharged and Stephen Metcalfe nominated in substitution.

25 Third Delegated Legislation Committee (draft York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023)

Members: Damian Green discharged and Aaron Bell nominated in substitution.

26 Fourth Delegated Legislation Committee (draft Hydrogen Production Revenue Support (Directions, Eligibility and Counterparty) Regulations 2023)

Members: Stephen Metcalfe discharged and Paul Howell nominated in substitution.

*Select Committees: Reports***27 Backbench Business Committee**

Transcript of representations made on Tuesday 12 December to be published (Ian Mearns).

28 Business and Trade Committee

(1) *National Security and Investment Act 2021: Annual Report 2022–23*: Oral evidence taken before the Sub-Committee on National Security and Investment, to be published (HC 365);

(2) *Correspondence from Companies House relating to the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 and tackling economic crime*: Written evidence, to be published;

(3) *Employment at McDonald's franchises*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 195);

(4) *Private equity and the retail sector*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 416);

(5) *The collapse of Wilko*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 316);

(6) *The performance of investment zones and freeports in England*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 272)

(Liam Byrne).

29 Culture, Media and Sport Committee

(1) *Safety at major sporting events*: First Report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 174);

(2) *Creator remuneration*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 156);

(3) *British film and high-end television*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 157);

(4) *Gambling regulation*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 176);

(5) *Women's sport*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 177);

(6) *Work of Channel 4*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 159);

(7) *Work of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 407)

(Dame Caroline Dinéage).

30 Defence Committee

(1) *MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2022–23*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 54);

(2) *Service accommodation*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 55);

(3) *Women in the Armed Forces: follow-up*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 49)

(John Spellar).

31 Education Committee

(1) *Teacher recruitment, training and retention*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 119);

(2) *Ofsted's work with schools*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 117)

(Mr Robin Walker).

32 Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

- (1) *Thames Water finances*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 402);
- (2) *Correspondence from the Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries relating to fisheries negotiations*: Written evidence, to be published;
- (3) *Correspondence from the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association relating to the import of live animals*: Written evidence, to be published;
- (4) *Correspondence from Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Orca, and OceanCare relating to marine mammals*: Written evidence, to be published;
- (5) *Education and careers in land-based sectors*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 165);
- (6) *Fairness in the food supply chain*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 160);
- (7) *Pet welfare and abuse*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 161);
- (8) *Work of the Department*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 163)
- (Sir Robert Goodwill).

33 Holocaust Memorial Bill (Select Committee on)

John Stevenson reported, That he had been chosen as Chair of the Committee.

34 Home Affairs Committee

- (1) *Policing of protests*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 369);
- (2) *Correspondence with the Permanent Secretary*: Written evidence, to be published;
- (3) *Correspondence with the Permanent Secretary, relating to the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership*: Written evidence, to be published
- (Dame Diana Johnson).

35 Human Rights (Joint Committee on)

Chair's briefing paper: Safety of Rwanda (Asylum & Immigration Bill): Written evidence, to be published (Harriet Harman).

36 Justice Committee

- (1) *Appointment of HM Chief Inspector of Probation*:
- (i) First Report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 397);
 - (ii) Oral evidence, to be published (HC 397);
- (2) *Correspondence from the Minister for Courts and Legal Services relating to the 2019 consultation on coronial investigation of stillbirths*: Written evidence, to be published;
- (3) *Correspondence from the Minister for Victims and Safeguarding relating to the qualified legal representative scheme*: Written evidence, to be published;
- (4) *Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State relating to legal aid provisions in the Illegal Migration Act 2023*: Written evidence, published;
- (5) *Correspondence from the Secretary of State relating to the Government Response to Bishop James' Report*: Written evidence, to be published;

(6) *Correspondence with the Minister for Courts and Legal Services relating to probate registry performance*: Written evidence to be published;

(7) *Regulation of the legal professions*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 266);

(8) *The use of pre-recorded cross-examination under section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 267);

(9) *Work of the County Court*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 414)

(Sir Robert Neill).

37 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

(1) *PSNI data breaches*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 1791);

(2) *Correspondence from the Secretary of State*: Written evidence, to be published;

(3) *The funding and delivery of public services in Northern Ireland*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 46)

(Sir Robert Buckland).

38 Petitions Committee

(1) Record of the Committee's decisions relating to e-petitions, to be published;

(2) List of closed e-petitions presented to the House, to be published;

(3) *Correspondence from the Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries relating to e-petition 643216*: Written evidence, to be published;

(4) *Correspondence with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*: Written evidence, to be published

(Cat Smith).

39 Public Accounts (Committee of)

UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership: Written evidence, to be published (HC 410) (Dame Meg Hillier).

40 Standards (Committee on)

Work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 363) (Ms Harriet Harman).

41 Transport Committee

Correspondence from Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport relating to the Rapid Charging Fund: Written evidence, to be published (Iain Stewart).

42 Treasury Committee

(1) *Work of the Financial Conduct Authority*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 210);

(2) *Correspondence relating to Fractional shares and Individual Saving Accounts (ISAs)*: Written evidence, to be published;

(3) *Infrastructure*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 250)

(Harriett Baldwin).

Lindsay Hoyle

Speaker

Westminster Hall

The sitting began at 9.34 am.

1 Business appointed by the Chairman of Ways and Means (Standing Order No. 10(6))

2 Provision of auditory verbal therapy

Resolved, That this House has considered the provision of auditory verbal therapy.—
(*Sally-Ann Hart.*)

The sitting was suspended between 10.07 am and 11 am.

3 Future of Middlewick Ranges

Resolved, That this House has considered the future of Middlewick Ranges.—(*Will Quince.*)

The sitting was suspended between 11.23 am and 2.30 pm (Standing Order No. 10(1)(b)).

4 Arms export licences for sales to Israel

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House has considered the matter of arms export licences for sales to Israel.—(*Zarah Sultana.*)

At 4 pm, the Motion lapsed (Standing Order No.10(6)).

5 Welsh devolution

Resolved, That this House has considered Welsh devolution.—(*Mr Rob Roberts.*)

6 Public sector food procurement and healthy eating

Resolved, That this House has considered public sector food procurement and healthy eating.—(*Anthony Mangnall.*)

Sitting adjourned without Question put (Standing Order No. 10(14)).

Adjourned at 5.25 pm until tomorrow.

Eleanor Laing

Chairman of Ways and Means

Papers Laid

Papers subject to Affirmative Resolution

1 Sea Fisheries

Draft Sea Fisheries (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum and an Impact Assessment (by Command) (Secretary Steve Barclay)

Papers subject to Negative Resolution

2 Local Government

(1) Draft North Tyneside (Electoral Changes) Order 2024 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (The Speaker)

(2) Draft Tandridge (Electoral Changes) Order 2024 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (The Speaker)

(3) Local Government and Greater London Authority Elections (Amendment) Rules 2023 (SI, 2023, No. 1334), dated 7 December 2023 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Simon Hoare)

Other papers

3 Home Office

A profession we can all be proud of: Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service: Government Consultation Response (by Command) (CP 993) (Secretary James Cleverly)

4 Law Commissions

Report of the Law Commission for 2022–23, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (by Act), to be printed (HC 301) (Secretary Alex Chalk)

5 National Health Service

Report and Accounts of Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust for 2022–23 (by Act) (Secretary Victoria Atkins)

6 National Lottery etc

Report and Accounts of Creative Scotland National Lottery Distribution Fund 2023 (by Act) (Secretary Alister Jack)

SPEAKER'S CERTIFICATES

VOTING BY PROXY (STANDING ORDER NO. 39A)

(Variations in existing arrangements appear in **bold**.)

Member	From	To	Proxy
Dawn Butler	12 December	11 January 2024	Florence Eshalomi
Taiwo Owatemi	12 December	17 June 2024	Chris Elmore
Dr Philippa Whitford	7 November	1 May 2024	Marion Fellows
Angela Crawley	12 December	20 July 2024	Owen Thompson (from 12 December)

Dr Kieran Mullan

17 October

12 December

Mr Marcus Jones