

No.158



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday 12 January 2021

Votes and Proceedings

The House met at 11.30 am.

Prayers

- 1 Questions to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**
- 2 Speaker's Statement: Select Committees (Participation and Reporting) (Extension of Temporary Order)**

The Speaker notified the House, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4) of the Temporary Order (Select Committees (Participation and Reporting)) of 24 March 2020, that in his opinion it was expedient that the arrangements under that Order should continue in force until Friday 30 April 2021.

- 3 Statements: (1) Government response to forced labour in Xinjiang (Secretary Dominic Raab)**
- (2) Defence support to the COVID-19 response (Secretary Ben Wallace)**

- 4 Abolition of Business Rates: Motion for leave to bring in a Bill (Standing Order No. 23)**

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to abolish business rates; and for connected purposes;

That Kevin Hollinrake, Andrew Griffith, Julian Knight, Richard Fuller, Tim Farron, Mark Garnier, Huw Merriman, Sir Greg Knight, Marco Longhi, Robbie Moore, Duncan Baker and Aaron Bell present the Bill.

Kevin Hollinrake accordingly presented the Bill.

Bill read the first time; to be read a second time on Friday 15 January, and to be printed (Bill 237).

5 COVID-19

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House has considered COVID-19.—
(*Edward Argar.*)

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

Resolved, That this House has considered COVID-19.

6 Statutory Instruments: Motions for Approval

(1) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Extension of the Relevant Period) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 (SI, 2020, No. 1483), dated 8 December 2020, a copy of which was laid before this House on 9 December 2020, be approved.—(*Michael Tomlinson.*)

Question agreed to.

(2) Motion made and Question put forthwith (Standing Order No. 118(6)), That the draft Tax Credits Reviews and Appeals (Amendment) Order 2020, which was laid before this House on 15 October 2020, be approved.—(*Michael Tomlinson.*)

Question agreed to.

7 Sittings in Westminster Hall (Suspension) (No. 2)

Motion made, That, notwithstanding Standing Order No. 10 (Sittings in Westminster Hall) and the Order of the House of 23 September 2020, there shall be no sittings in Westminster Hall with effect from Wednesday 13 January until the House otherwise orders.—(*Michael Tomlinson.*)

Objection taken (Standing Order No. 9(6)).

8 Joint Committee on the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the Resolution of the House of 10 November

2020, it be an instruction to the Joint Committee on the Fixed-term Parliaments Act that it should report by Wednesday 31 March 2021.—(*Michael Tomlinson.*)

9 Business of the House (Private Members' Bills) (No. 9)

Motion made, That the Order of the House of 16 January 2020 (Business of the House (Private Members' Bills)), as amended by the Orders of the House of 25 March, 22 April, 12 May, 10 June, 1 July, 3 November and 30 December 2020, is further amended as follows:

leave out "15 January 2021, 22 January 2021, 29 January 2021, 5 February 2021, 26 February 2021, 5 March 2021, 12 March 2021 and 26 March 2021".—(*Michael Tomlinson.*)

Objection taken (Standing Order No. 9(6)).

10Adjournment

Subject: 10th anniversary year of the South Downs National Park (Andrew Griffith)

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.—(*Michael Tomlinson.*)

Adjourned at 7.31 pm until tomorrow.

Other Proceedings

General Committees: Reports

11 Fourth Delegated Legislation Committee

Dame Angela Eagle (Chair) reported the draft Airports Slot Allocation (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2021.

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).

12 Telecommunications (Security) Bill (Programming Sub-Committee)

Members: Maria Caulfield, Feryal Clark, Angela Crawley, John Lamont, James Sunderland and Matt Warman

Reports from Select Committees

13 Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

(1) *Net Zero and UN Climate Summits*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 144);

(2) *Correspondence relating to the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme*: Written evidence, to be published;

(3) *Post-pandemic economic growth*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 393);

(4) *RIO 2: Energy network price controls*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 983);

(5) *The impact of border delays on UK business and security of supply*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 1113);

(6) *The impact of coronavirus on businesses and workers*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 219)

(Darren Jones).

14 Defence Committee

(1) *Armed forces and veterans' mental health: follow-up*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 1133);

(2) *Correspondence with the Minister for the Armed Forces relating to the recruitment of personnel aged under 18*: Written evidence, to be published;

(3) *Defence contribution to the UK's pandemic response*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 357);

(4) *Foreign involvement in the defence supply chain*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 699);

(5) *Report and Accounts of the Ministry of Defence for 2019–20*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 1051)

(Mr Tobias Ellwood).

15 Defence Committee, International Development Committee and International Trade Committee

Arms export controls: Initial review: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 965) (Mark Garnier).

16 Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

(1) *Sport in our communities:* Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 869);

(2) *Economics of music streaming:* Written evidence, to be published (HC 868);

(3) *The future of UK music festivals:* Written evidence, to be published (HC 886)

(Julian Knight).

17 Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

(1) *Public sector procurement of food:* Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 469);

(2) *Labour in the food supply chain:* Written evidence, to be published (HC 231)

(Neil Parish).

18 Foreign Affairs Committee

(1) *Striking the balance: Protecting national security through foreign investment legislation:*

(i) Sixth Report, to be printed, with the formal minutes relating to the Report (HC 296);

(ii) Written evidence, to be published (HC 296);

(2) *Government Response to Committee's Fourth Report: A brave new Britain? The future of the UK's international policy:* Eighth Special Report, to be printed (HC 1088);

(3) *Xinjiang detention camps:* Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 800);

(4) *Environmental diplomacy:* Written evidence, to be published (HC 202);

(5) *Global health security:* Written evidence, to be published (HC 897);

(6) *The UK's role in strengthening multilateral organisations*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 513);

(7) *The work of the FCDO*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 253)

(Tom Tugendhat).

19 Health and Social Care Committee

(1) *Delivering core NHS and care services during the pandemic and beyond: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report: First Special Report*, to be printed (HC 1149);

(2) *Workforce burnout and resilience in the NHS and social care*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 703)

(Jeremy Hunt).

20 International Development Committee

Correspondence with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office relating to a memorandum on progress of the FCDO merger: Written evidence, to be published (Sarah Champion).

21 Justice Committee

(1) *The future of legal aid*: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 289);

(2) *Court capacity*: Oral and written evidence, to be published (HC 284);

(3) *Correspondence from the Crown Prosecution Service*: Written evidence, to be published;

(4) *Correspondence from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State*: Written evidence, to be published

(Sir Robert Neill).

22 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

(Catherine McKinnell).

23 Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

- (1) *The work of the Cabinet Office: Oral evidence, to be published (HC 118);*
- (2) *Data transparency and accountability: COVID-19: Written evidence, to be published (HC 803);*
- (3) *Correspondence from the Minister for Health relating to Public Health Protection and Health Security Common Framework: Written evidence, to be published;*
- (4) *Correspondence from the Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office relating to Public Procurement Common Framework: Written evidence, to be published;*
- (5) *Correspondence from Lord Bew relating to Dr Peter Cruddas peerage: Written evidence, to be published;*
- (6) *Correspondence from Nick Smallwood relating to IPA Mandate 2021: Written evidence, to be published;*
- (7) *Correspondence with Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster relating to Lord Dunlop's review of Union Capability: Written evidence, to be published*

(Mr William Wragg).

24 Science and Technology Committee

UK science, research and technology capability and influence in global disease outbreaks: Written evidence, to be published (HC 136) (Greg Clark).

25 Science and Technology Committee and Health and Social Care Committee

Coronavirus: lessons learnt: Written evidence, to be published (HC 877) (Greg Clark).

26 Standards (Committee on)

(1) *Code of conduct:* Oral evidence, to be published (HC 671);

(2) *All-Party Parliamentary Groups:* Written evidence, to be published (HC 672)

(Chris Bryant).

27 Welsh Affairs Committee

Railway infrastructure in Wales: Written evidence, to be published (HC 1044) (Stephen Crabb).

28 Women and Equalities Committee

(1) *Gender Recognition Act inquiry*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 884);

(2) *Unequal Impact? Coronavirus and the Gendered Economic Impact*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 385);

(3) *Changing the perfect picture: An inquiry into body image*: Written evidence, to be published (HC 274);

(4) *Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport relating to the Government Response to the consultation on the Online Harms White Paper*: Written evidence to be published;

(5) *Correspondence from the Minister for Women and Equalities relating to the Social Mobility Commission*: Written evidence, to be published;

(6) *Correspondence from the Minister for Women and Equalities relating to the UK Framework Agreements in the post-transition period*: Written evidence, to be published;

(7) *Correspondence from the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and*

Women and Equalities Committee relating to virtual participation in parliamentary proceedings: Written evidence, to be published

(Caroline Nokes).

Lindsay Hoyle

Speaker

Westminster Hall

The sitting began at 9.30 am.

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

1 Persecution of Muslims, Christians and minority groups in India

Resolved, That this House has considered the matter of persecution of Muslims, Christians and minority groups in India.—(*Jim Shannon*.)

2 Domestic tourism

Resolved, That this House has considered domestic tourism.—(*Steve Double.*)

The sitting was suspended between 11.29 am and 2.30 pm (Standing Order No. 10(1) (b)).

3 Effect of the COVID-19 outbreak on early years settings

Resolved, That this House has considered the effect of the COVID-19 outbreak on early years settings.—(*Fleur Anderson.*)

The sitting was suspended between 3.52 pm and 4.00 pm.

4 Squash and the Olympics

Resolved, That this House has considered squash and the Olympics.—(*Christina Rees.*)

5 Waste incineration and recycling rates

Resolved, That this House has considered waste incineration and recycling rates.—(*Elliot Colburn.*)

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

Adjourned at 5.30 pm until tomorrow.

Eleanor Laing

Chairman of Ways and Means

Papers Laid

Papers subject to Affirmative Resolution

1 Exiting the European Union (Trade)

Draft Cat and Dog Fur (Control of Movement etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2021 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Elizabeth Truss)

2 Rating and Valuation

Draft Non-Domestic Rating (Designated Area) Regulations 2021 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Luke Hall)

Papers subject to Negative Resolution

3 Bosnia and Herzegovina No. 1 (2021)

Agreement, done at Sarajevo on 1 December 2020, between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on International Road Transport (CP 364) (by Command), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Act) (Secretary Dominic Raab)

4 Kosovo No. 1 (2021)

Agreement, done at Pristina on 11 December 2020, between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on International Road Transport (CP 365) (by Command), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Act) (Secretary Dominic Raab)

5 Public Health

Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2)

Regulations 2021 (SI, 2021, No. 25), dated 11 January 2021 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Grant Shapps)

6 Road Traffic

M27 Motorway (Junctions 4 to 11) (Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2021 (SI, 2021, No. 17), dated 7 January 2021 (by Act), with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Command) (Secretary Grant Shapps)

Papers laid under paragraphs 3(3) and 17(3) of Schedule 7 to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

7 Social Security

Proposal for an instrument titled Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (by Act) with an Explanatory Memorandum (by Act) (Guy Opperman)

Other papers

8 National Audit

Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Investigation into the housing of rough sleepers during the COVID-19 pandemic (by Act), to be printed (HC 1075) (Clerk of the House)

9 National Audit

Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on Ministry of Defence: The Equipment Plan 2020 to 2030 (by Act), to be printed (HC 1037) (Clerk of the House)

10 Northern Ireland

Second Report on the Use of the Petition of Concern Mechanism in the Northern Ireland Assembly (by Command) (CP 362) (Secretary Brandon Lewis)

11 Statutory Instruments (Notification)

Communication declaring that the undermentioned Statutory Instrument had come into operation before copies were laid before Parliament, and explaining why such copies had not been so laid before the Instrument came into operation:

Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2021 (SI, 2021, No. 25) (by Standing Order) (The Speaker)

12 UK Borders

Report of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: An inspection of the Home Office's use of sanctions and penalties for November 2019–October 2020 (by Act) (Secretary Priti Patel)

Withdrawn papers

13 Social Security

Proposal for an instrument titled Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment (Amendment)

Regulations 2021 and Explanatory Memorandum (laid 11 January)

SPEAKER'S CERTIFICATES

Voting by proxy

1. New pandemic proxy voting arrangements

The Speaker has certified, under the terms of Standing Order No. 39A (Voting by proxy), as amended by the temporary Orders of 23 September 2020 (Proxy voting during the pandemic) and 3 November 2020 (Proxy voting during the pandemic (No. 2)) and extended by the Order of 22 October 2020, that the Members listed in the table below are eligible to have a proxy vote cast on their behalf by the nominated proxies listed in the table below, starting on the dates specified below and ending on Tuesday 30 March 2021, unless the arrangement is ended or the House otherwise orders.

Member	From	Proxy
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Greg Smith	13 January 2021	Stuart Andrew
Dehenna Davison	13 January 2021	Ben Everitt
Neil Coyle	13 January 2021	Mark Tami

2. Ending pandemic proxy voting arrangements

The Speaker has certified, under the terms of Standing Order No. 39A (Voting by proxy), as amended by the temporary Orders of 23 September 2020 (Proxy voting during the pandemic) and 3 November 2020 (Proxy voting during the pandemic (No. 2)) and extended by the Order of 22 October 2020, that the following Member has given notice that they wish to end their proxy voting arrangement with effect from when the Speaker takes the Chair on the dates specified below:

Member	From
Owen Thompson	13 January 2021