

Agenda for Seminar of Committee Secretariats Network
31 January/1 February 2008 at Westminster

Meeting in the Jubilee Room, off Westminster Hall

Thursday 31 January

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| 9.30 | Coffee |
| 9.45 | Greetings and introductions |
| 10.00 | Reports from jurisdictions and discussion |
| 11.30 | Coffee |
| 11.45 | <p>The Review of Select Committee Resources, led by Matthew Hamlyn from the House of Commons Scrutiny Unit and Annette Toft from the review team.</p> <p>What the review found.
Its prescriptions.
What are the shared lessons of how to combine flexibility with team identity in supporting individual committees?
What are the skills and knowledge needed in our policy analysts?
How good are we at using outside resources to meet particular specialist requirements or to provide good value surge capacity? What are the advantages and risks of going outside?
How good are we at exploiting the resources represented by our more junior staff? Are we growing our own talent?</p> |
| 13.00 | Lunch. (A sandwich lunch will be provided at which we hope other colleagues from the Commons and Lords will be able to join us.) |
| 14.00 | (If desired – follow-up of morning’s discussion) |
| 14.30 | <p>Promoting committees and their work, led by the House of Lords</p> <p>What arrangements do colleagues have to promote the work, and awareness of the work, of committees? This could range from press and publicity handling to outreach and educational work, and may involve targeting particular groups. A specific initiative the House of Lords is being encouraged to support is the promotion of awareness of committee work among children, by means of a competition.</p> |
| 16.00 | Tea |

16.15 Wales and Westminster: “joint” scrutiny of legislative competence orders, led by Nick Wright and Llinos Madeley from the Commons Welsh Affairs Committee and Gareth Williams from the National Assembly for Wales.

17.30 Close

19.00
for 19.30 Dinner in the Barry Room, House of Lords.

Friday 1 February

09.30 Coffee

10.00 A discussion about:
public engagement,
using commissioned research to inform scrutiny,
effective recommendations, and
achieving an impact,
as illustrated by the London Assembly’s review of access to dentistry in London, led by Richard Derecki (Scrutiny Team Manager, and former committee specialist for the Commons Treasury Committee).

11.30 Coffee

11.45 General open discussion on themes arising from the sessions

1300 Conclusion of formal proceedings (as many colleagues will be rushing for trains and planes lunch will not be provided, but it should be possible for groups to use the facilities in Westminster if they wish to stay).

14.30 Tour of the Palace of Westminster (pre-booking required).