

1,
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Prime Minister.

Ref. A03682

PRIME MINISTER

*Consent with the proposed
composition and terms of reference
of the Sub-Committee, subject to
the Home Secretary's views?
JWA 28/11*

Yes not

At yesterday's meeting about Lord Alport's Bill, you agreed that we should establish a Sub-Committee of the Home Affairs Committee on the House of Lords under the Home Secretary's chairmanship, and you invited me to make recommendations for its composition and terms of reference.

2. I attach proposals herewith.

3. As to composition, I suggest that the Government members of the House of Lords on the Sub-Committee should be the Lord Chancellor, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Lord President and the Government Chief Whip.

4. I have suggested that they should be balanced by four Ministers from the Commons: the Secretary of State for Defence, as a Minister with considerable Parliamentary experience; the Secretary of State for Scotland, who will be able to keep an eye on the implications of any proposals for a referendum in relation to Scotland; the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, as Leader of the House of Commons; and the Government Chief Whip.

5. As to terms of reference, I propose that they should be limited to considering whether and how to protect the existence and powers of the House of Lords, and should not at this stage be extended to questions of reform.

6. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Home Secretary.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

28th November, 1980

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HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE HOUSE OF LORDS

COMPOSITION:

Home Secretary (Chairman)
Lord Chancellor
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary
Lord President of the Council
Secretary of State for Defence
Secretary of State for Scotland
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury
Captain, Gentlemen-at-Arms

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

To consider whether, and if so what, measures should be taken to protect the existence and powers of the House of Lords.

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FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Parliament



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

9 December, 1980.

Your Ref: A03749

Dear David,

Home and Social Affairs Committee
Sub-Committee on the House of Lords

The Lord Chancellor has asked me to thank Sir Robert Armstrong for his minute of 5th December, and to say that he is of course very happy to be a member of the sub-committee on the House of Lords under the Chairmanship of the Home Secretary.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the other recipients of Sir Robert's minute, and to the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Yours sincerely,
M. H. Collon

M. H. Collon

D. J. Wright Esq.,
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of the Cabinet,
Cabinet Office,
70 Whitehall,
London S.W.1.

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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

2 December 1980

Dear David,

HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: SUB-COMMITTEE
ON THE HOUSE OF LORDS

The Home Secretary has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 28 November to the Prime Minister and the minute of 1 December from Nick Sanders. The Home Secretary is content with the proposals Sir Robert Armstrong set out.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Nick Sanders.

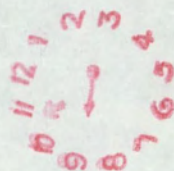
*Yours,
S W*

(S W BOYS SMITH)

D J Wright Esq

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3 DEC 1980



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Parliament

MR. WRIGHT
CABINET OFFICE

Home Affairs Committee: Sub-Committee on the
House of Lords

The Prime Minister has seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 28 November (A03682).

Subject to the Home Secretary's views, she is content with the proposals set out in that minute.

I am copying this minute to John Halliday (Home Office).

N.J. SANDERS

1 December 1980

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ASD