

Committee(s)	Dated:
Public Relations & Economic Development Sub-Committee	24 April 2018
Subject: Parliamentary activity update	Public
Report of: The City Remembrancer	For Information
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Summary

The following report provides Members with highlights of key activity undertaken by the Parliamentary Team in the Remembrancer's Office since the last meeting of the Committee. During this time, the Government's centrepiece Brexit legislation, the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, was considered in Committee by the House of Lords. The Remembrancer's Office will continue to engage with the Bill during its remaining stages, and the reports commissioned by the IRSG will provide the basis for this work. The overall objective of any action is to promote consistency, clarity and continuity for the various sectors of relevance to the City, to minimise the cost businesses will face in the context of EU withdrawal, and to seek to ensure that the legislation enables effective, practical delivery of the necessary changes.

Parliament was in recess for Easter from 30 March – 15 April.

Recommendation

Members of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee are asked to note the update.

Main Report

EU (Withdrawal) Bill

1. The EU (Withdrawal) Bill completed 11 days of Committee stage in the Lords on 28 March. An amendment on mutual market access (based on the work of the IRSG), tabled on the City Corporation's behalf by Lord Carrington and supported by Chair of the Lords EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee Baroness Falkner, was debated on 12 March. While declining to support the clause, noting that the negotiations on detail were yet to be had, Lord Callanan, for the Government, thanked Lord Carrington for precipitating an "excellent short discussion," and stated that "the Government share the aims of the Noble Lord's amendment."
2. Six days have been timetabled for report stage in the Lords, beginning on 18 April.

3. As a consequence of the amendment tabled by Bob Neill MP in the Commons on ambulatory references in contracts, meetings have taken place with officials from DExEU and the MoJ to consider how the interpretation of contracts, prospectuses and other related documents should be approached and unwanted interference with private contractual arrangements avoided. This may result in an amendment at Report Stage in the Lords.
4. In response to the Commons amendment on the use of official commentaries in the interpretation of EU legislation, the Solicitor General has deposited a letter in the Commons' Library which explains the Government's approach. This has met the object of the amendment.

Open Spaces Act

5. Having passed its third reading on 27 February, the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill was given Royal Assent on 15 March. The Act will enable the City Corporation to manage the open spaces more effectively and provides for a new licensing scheme to control commercial activity in the open spaces. The Act will also enable the City Corporation to issue fixed penalty notices for breaches of bylaws.

Select Committees

6. The Parliamentary Team worked closely with Mansion House and EDO on preparations for the Lord Mayor's appearance before the Foreign Affairs Committee on 'Global Britain'. The evidence session took place on 27 February. The Lord Mayor was joined as a witness by Alderman Sir David Wootton in his capacity as Chair of the Mayoral Visits Advisory Committee.
7. The Office made arrangements for a City Corporation-led financial services roundtable briefing session for members of the Lords EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee on 21 March. City representatives, led by the Policy Chairman, included UK Finance, the Association of British Insurers, the Investment Association, and legal experts from Hogan Lovells, Linklaters and the Law Society of Scotland.
8. Support was provided for the Policy Chairman's meeting with Yvette Cooper, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee. During the meeting, the work of the Committee, including a new inquiry into post-Brexit migration policy, was discussed.
9. The Office continued its programme of engagement with Select Committees, meeting with the International Trade Select Committee Clerk to discuss current and future Committee inquiries and ways of working together. Written evidence was submitted to the Committee on trade with Australia and New Zealand, following the Lord Mayor's overseas visit in February.
10. The Office submitted evidence to the Treasury Select Committee's inquiry on Women in Finance, following the City Corporation's signing of the Treasury's Women in Finance Charter. The City Corporation's commitment to social

mobility was emphasised, and City Corporation-led initiatives such as 'Power of Diversity' and the 'She Can Be' campaign were highlighted.

11. Evidence was drafted in conjunction with the Port Health team for a submission to an informal Lords EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee inquiry into Brexit and food. This was not a public call for evidence, but the Office had been working closely with the Committee on their Brexit workstream, and had been asked to provide this information in advance of the Committee's session with the DEFRA Minister.
12. Written evidence has also been submitted to the Lords Home Affairs Sub-Committee on the Movement of People: Sports and Culture, emphasising the importance of access to talent to the creative industries, and to the Environmental Audit Committee on the 25-Year Environment Plan, highlighting the City Corporation's initiatives on air quality, disposable packaging and green finance.
13. The Office is making arrangements, working closely with the Economic Development Office, the Communications Team and the Policy Chairman's Office, for the Policy Chairman's appearance before the Lords EU Committee on Post-Brexit UK-EU Relations on 24 April.

Debates and briefings

14. Parliamentary support has been provided to the Economic Development Office for a briefing for MPs and Peers on the recent Green Finance Taskforce recommendations, which was well received, including by the Chair of the Lords EU Energy and Environment Committee Lord Teverson.
15. A briefing was provided for a debate on legal services. The Corporation note was used by Justice Select Committee Chairman Bob Neill MP, who spoke about the need to prioritise the legal services sector in Brexit negotiations and the sector's key asks during negotiations.
16. A briefing was also provided to Justine Greening MP for a debate on social mobility.

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

17. The office facilitated, with the APPG for London, a meeting on charity and philanthropy in London at which Alderman Gowman spoke on behalf of City Bridge Trust and highlighted CBT's new 5-year plan. Politicians heard that CBT's 'Stepping Stones' programme helped about 65 smaller charities across London. Details were given about CBT's 'Bridge to Work' scheme, designed to tackle unemployment among young, disabled Londoners.
18. Communication continues with both the China APPG and the India APPG to discuss future engagement – promoting the work of the City Corporation's Asia offices, the Special Adviser and the Lord Mayor's overseas programme.

19. Support was provided for officers from Markets & Consumer Protection, who gave evidence to the APPG for Working at Height's inquiry into injury from falls.
20. Evidence was submitted to the Skills Commission, a cross-party group of parliamentarians linked to the Skills and Employment APPG, regarding the contribution of apprenticeships and the impact of skills on social mobility.
21. Operational-level engagement has continued with officer attendance at meetings of the following Groups – Africa, Commonwealth, Inclusive Growth, and Burma. Engagement with these Groups, and others, will continue to be reported to this Committee in the usual way.

The GLA & the Regions

22. A briefing was provided to the GLA Environment Committee on the City Corporation's plastics and water bottle initiatives.
23. Evidence was submitted to the consultation on the Mayoral Economic Development Strategy.
24. The expansion of the City Corporation's regional strategy has been noted and contacts will be developed with the relevant All-Party Parliamentary Groups and, where appropriate, officers at the relevant regional centres (Birmingham, Leeds and Cardiff).

Other

25. The Office's programme of parliamentary meetings, held jointly with the Industry and Parliament Trust, continued with a dinner meeting at which the Lord Mayor spoke about his Business of Trust agenda. Joe Garner (CEO of Nationwide) was the other guest speaker. Baroness Kramer chaired the meeting. Guests were drawn from Parliament and the commercial sector.
26. Arrangements are being made for a briefing roundtable for Lib Dem frontbench MPs and Peers, titled 'Phase II: what should the UK be seeking in a Free Trade Agreement with the EU – perspectives from the financial services industry'. The meeting will take place on 25 April, and will be led by the Policy Chairman, alongside Rachel Kent from Hogan Lovells.

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