Written submission from Lord Best - RIS0007

Review of Investigative and Scrutiny Committees - Written Evidence Submission

I served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Communications for three years to June 2017. (I was previously a Member of the Economic Affairs Committee for four years and Chaired the Audit Committee for five years.) My submission concerns a single issue: the length of time Peers serve on Investigative and Scrutiny Committees.

While I believe Committees do immensely good work which, with a bit more investment in dissemination could be even more highly influential, the current three-year term does not optimise the Members’ capacity to really understand the context and intricacies of their role. This applies particularly in respect of those who chair Committees since these need to engage with the networks relating to the relevant sectors, the key civil servants, as well as the relevant parliamentarians in the Commons.

My recommendation would be for four-year terms for Members and five-year terms for Chairs of Committees.

March 2018