I am sure you have had many submissions but I thought I would make a few very brief submissions. I would be delighted to expand on these if it helped.

1. Great Committee Reports, poor PR and public impact
   We have good PR staff but far too few of them. The House of Lords has as a whole less than 5 full time equivalents. The House of Commons over 10 and the Scottish Government 40. This important feature of our democracy lies largely hidden. This is an area that I have experience in, but other noble Lords have really a lot and given some budget we could spend it well.

2. Use of Video Conferencing.
   We have some equipment and it is hardly used. We must use this terrific cost saving device rather than for instance travelling en masse to Edinburgh. It does not replace the need to see people from time to time but can augment a relationship (eg with devolved parliamentary committees).

3. Interaction with the devolved parliaments and administrations
   Since the last review we have had the Scotland Act, etc and the UK is considerably more devolved. There should be regular and timetabled interaction with similar committees both to look at common problems and to look at how devolution mechanics are working. Indeed the Memorandum of Understanding and how the Union is working is a whole subject that should be on one of our Committee’s Terms of Reference (presumably the Constitution Committee).

4. Scrutiny of UK Regulators
   This has been rather haphazard to date but with the departure from the EU some of the regulators have become very powerful and are quite vital. Examples would be the FCA and the PRA, but there are many. Again I feel that the ToR of several Committees should include examining relevant regulators.

5. Attendance and Performance of Members
   In the Commercial world this is all now disclosed. I feel we should disclose attendance of members at least. The Chairman of a Committee should also have a duty to consider performance. The privilege of serving on a committee should come with the requirement for reasonable service.

6. Parliamentary diplomacy
In the new and non-EU world we must have regard to being as a House part of the bit of the UK that faces our friends, neighbours and business partners. This means welcoming relevant people here, sending our members to speak and attend gatherings and visiting. Each Committee is well able to come up with a plan that could be submitted for approval in the usual way to the Senior Deputy Speaker, but there must be a reasonable budget to do this. And we must be able to entertain in a reasonable (not lavish) way.

13 March 2018