Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to your review of investigative and scrutiny committees today. During the evidence session I raised the difference in the number of officials supporting the Treasury Select Committee in the House of Commons and those supporting the Economic Affairs Committee.

Having reviewed the number of staff detailed on the Treasury Select Committee’s website (https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/treasury-committee/contact-us/) before our session, I wanted to clarify that they do indeed have many more staff than any Lords committee. Having spoken to the staff of the Treasury Select Committee since our session this morning, it transpires that they have more staff than advertised on their website.

The staff complement compromises of at least 14 staff: one Clerk, one Second Clerk, one lead Senior Economist, two further Senior Economists, one senior Committee Support Assistant, another Committee Support Assistant, one Chief Policy Adviser, five Committee Specialists (seconded from HM Revenue & Customs, the Bank of England, Financial Conduct Authority, the National Audit Office and the Prudential Regulation Authority), and a Senior Media and Policy Officer.

While I do not think that committees in the House of Lords require staffing on the same scale as the House of Commons, I hope this example provokes consideration by the Liaison Committee of how to evolve our own staffing model to meet the expectations of members and the general public, and to ensure our existing staff are properly supported in their work.

I would be grateful if this information could be shared with all members of the Liaison Committee.

(FORSYTH OF DRUMLEAN)
Chairman, Economic Affairs Committee