Parliamentary Bureau: Committee Request to Extend Adviser Contract

Standards Procedures and Public Appointments Committee:

Background

1. The Bureau has previously agreed to the appointment of an adviser to assist the Standards Procedures and Public Appointments Committee in its inquiry on Committee Effectiveness. The original appointment was for a period of 10 days at the standard day rate.

2. Dr Danielle Beswick was chosen by the Committee and has supported the committee's work throughout its evidence gathering phase.

3. The Committee is now seeking the Bureau's approval to extend Dr Beswick's contract both in terms of the number of days and the overall duration. The extension requested is up to 5 further days' work – to a total of up to 15 days – and an end date of 30 September 2025.

Reason for extension

4. The Committee has recently completed its evidence taking on the Bill and has called on the adviser's support throughout that period for analysis of evidence and briefing materials.

5. As the Committee moves toward consideration of its report, approval is now sought to ensure that the adviser's support can be available to assist with peer review and drafting of the Committee's report and to continue to provide the critical friend role to the Committee as it considers its draft report.

Decision

6. The Bureau is invited to approve the extension of the contract for the adviser to the Standards Procedures and Public Appointments Committee in its scrutiny of its inquiry on Committee Effectiveness.

Parliamentary Business Team
May 2025