

Parliamentary Bureau: Time for Reflection

1. This paper invites the Bureau to consider its future approach to Time for Reflection nominations.
2. To ensure that the Time for Reflection programme represents as diverse a range of views and perspectives as possible, and to ensure greater gender balance across the programme, the Presiding Officer requires more nominations than there are available slots in upcoming programmes.
3. The current waiting list comprises seven nominations reflecting faith and non-faith backgrounds.
4. The Presiding Officer recently wrote to Members to draw their attention to the opportunity to nominate potential future Time for Reflection contributors, requesting that consideration be given to gender balance, in addition to the opportunity to nominate those from both faith and non-faith backgrounds. Business Managers are encouraged to remind Members that a diverse range of contributors is sought.

Recommendations

5. The Bureau is invited to—
 - (a) Note the ongoing opportunity to propose nominations for future Time for Reflection contributors, In doing so, Members should be encouraged to consider a broad and inclusive range of candidates ensuring gender balance and those from both faith and non-faith backgrounds; and
 - (b) Agree the process for approving nominations in the future, specifically that a paper setting out proposed nominations should be submitted to the Bureau on a six monthly basis for sign off (noting that such approvals have historically been agreed without opposition); **or**, alternatively that responsibility for approving all Time for Reflection nominations for the parliamentary year be delegated to the Presiding Officer, in order to reduce the need for Bureau consideration.

Parliamentary Business Team
June 2026