

Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments

To: the Clerk/Secretary General

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR *THE TABLE* IN RESPECT OF 2016

Please reply to the editor, Nicolas Besly, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW (email beslyn@parliament.uk), by 31 March 2017 (if this timetable causes difficulty please contact the editor). For bicameral parliaments, it is helpful if the two Houses' answers to question 3 are coordinated. Please email copy, preferably in Microsoft Word. If emailing, there is no need to post a hard copy. The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions and to include such material as seems appropriate.

- 1. Members of the Society** Has any member of the Society died, retired, been promoted or received any decoration or award in 2016?

The full List of Members is not included in *The Table*, but is circulated separately twice a year. If there are any changes or corrections to the list, please notify Karen Georgiou, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA (email georgioukj@parliament.uk).

- 2. Articles** Has anything significant happened in your House in 2016 which would be of interest to other members of the Society? Any major change in law or practice concerning parliament (procedure, membership, staff, premises, management practices, electoral system)? Any unusual parliamentary proceedings or events? Is there an historical event of interest to Society members? Or a parliamentary development which spans several years? If so, full articles would be welcome. Articles need not be long. They appear at the start of the volume and are attributed to authors. Please include the name and position of the author.
- 3. Miscellaneous notes** Has anything else happened in your House in 2016 which would be of interest to other members of the Society? Any other changes in law or practice concerning parliament? Any other unusual parliamentary proceedings or events? If so, brief miscellaneous notes would be welcome. Miscellaneous notes are anonymous. There is no need to replicate as a miscellaneous note a development covered in an article, or in the privilege or standing orders sections.
- 4. Privilege** Please give details of significant cases of breach of privilege or contempt of the House in 2016. Questions of privilege which were raised but clearly had no merit need not be included.
- 5. Standing orders** Were your standing orders significantly amended in 2016? If so, how and why? Only significant amendments need be included. If a major review of procedure is pending, in progress or being implemented, please give details.
- 6. Sitting days** On how many days in each calendar month in 2016 did your House sit? If sittings were interrupted by an election, please indicate. Please include only full sittings of your House; committee days should not be included.

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7. **Unparliamentary expressions** Please list, in date order, any expressions disallowed in 2016, in the following format: “Expression” (date). Please do not include expressions which amount to straightforward abuse or accusations of lying. Expressions which were not ruled unparliamentary may be omitted. Each expression and variations thereof need be included only once. If expressions were in a language other than English, please also provide an English translation.
8. **Books** Please list and where appropriate provide short reviews of good books on parliament published in your region in 2016. Please use the following format: *Title*, by author, publisher, price, ISBN number. Books only please; pamphlets, reports, briefing notes, etc. need not be included. Only books specifically on parliament please. Only original reviews please; material on a back cover or forward, etc., of a book need not be included. Please include the name and position of the author of reviews.
9. **Annual comparative study: *sub judice* rules**
What arrangements are there in your chamber/parliament for preventing cases which are before the courts (i.e. which are *sub judice*) from being raised in debate in your chamber/parliament? How is any *sub judice* rule enforced? Are there exceptions to the rule?