



Lord Speaker

THE RT HON. THE LORD FOWLER

House of Lords

London SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020 7219 6444 Email: lordspeaker@parliament.uk

www.parliament.uk/lordspeaker

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Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of Thursday 16 July. This has now been considered by the House of Lords Commission.

As you note in your letter, the option of locating Parliament outside London does not form part of the scope of the Restoration and Renewal Programme and is a matter for Parliament to determine. I am therefore grateful to you for seeking clarity from the two Houses regarding the suggestion that this option forms part of the current strategic review of the programme.

Upon reflection, I do not consider that it would be appropriate or advisable for the strategic review to consider an alternative location for Parliament outside London within its terms of reference; simply put, this question is bigger than the strategic review and the Restoration and Renewal programme. As you recognise, it would have far reaching constitutional implications, which the review would not be able to consider. It is my view that these cannot be neatly hived off, with the review considering the more practical matters associated with relocating outside London in isolation.

I therefore request that you continue your work with the strategic review in the terms previously set out. I hope this will also have the benefit of enabling the review to stick to its current timetable and for any associated delays to the schedule for Restoration and Renewal to be kept to the absolute minimum.

Yours ever,
Liz Peace

Liz Peace CBE

Chair, Houses of Parliament Restoration & Renewal Sponsor Body