

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT
GENERAL COMMITTEES

Public Bill Committee

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Twenty Fifth Sitting

Wednesday 16 January 2019

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Motion to adjourn considered.

Adjourned till Wednesday 23 January at Ten o'clock.

No proofs can be supplied. Corrections that Members suggest for the final version of the report should be clearly marked in a copy of the report—not telephoned—and must be received in the Editor’s Room, House of Commons,

not later than

Sunday 20 January 2019

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The Committee consisted of the following Members:*Chairs:* † Ms NADINE DORRIES, ALBERT OWEN

Allan, Lucy (*Telford*) (Con)
 Bone, Mr Peter (*Wellingborough*) (Con)
 Charalambous, Bambos (*Enfield, Southgate*) (Lab)
 † Fletcher, Colleen (*Coventry North East*) (Lab)
 † Foster, Kevin (*Torbay*) (Con)
 Harper, Mr Mark (*Forest of Dean*) (Con)
 † Khan, Afzal (*Manchester, Gorton*) (Lab)
 Lee, Karen (*Lincoln*) (Lab)
 Linden, David (*Glasgow East*) (SNP)
 † Matheson, Christian (*City of Chester*) (Lab)

Mills, Nigel (*Amber Valley*) (Con)
 Norris, Alex (*Nottingham North*) (Lab/Co-op)
 Paisley, Ian (*North Antrim*) (DUP)
 † Smith, Chloe (*Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office*)
 † Stewart, Bob (*Beckenham*) (Con)
 Wiggin, Bill (*North Herefordshire*) (Con)
 Kenneth Fox, *Committee Clerk*
 † **attended the Committee**

Public Bill Committee

Wednesday 16 January 2019

[MS NADINE DORRIES *in the Chair*]

Parliamentary Constituencies (Amendment) Bill

The Chair: I make the usual announcement about switching off electronic devices. As the Committee cannot consider the clauses of the Bill until the House has agreed a money resolution, I call Afzal Khan to move that the Committee do now adjourn.

10 am

Afzal Khan (Manchester, Gorton) (Lab): I beg to move, That the Committee do now adjourn.

What a week this has been! The meaningful vote has resulted in a crushing defeat. The Government have failed to deliver an effective Brexit. In a similar fashion, they have failed to make any progress with this Bill. Sadly, the chaos surrounding Brexit has overshadowed my Bill since its inception. Following the events of yesterday, it is clear that the Government lack serious authority. During this uncertain period, it seems more and more likely that a general election could be called at any moment.

My Bill aims to strengthen democracy in these uncertain times, and I seriously suggest that we make some development with it and push for a money resolution. This week will go down in the history books—I would very much like my Bill to be part of that. Can the Minister enlighten us on any further developments?

10.1 am

Christian Matheson (City of Chester) (Lab): It is a great pleasure to see you in the Chair once again, Ms Dorries. I do not wish to detain the Committee for very long at all; suffice it to say that I am very supportive of the position of my hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton. The absurdity and chaos of this week has rather bumped the Committee down the order of absurdity, as I predicted a couple of weeks ago. There is an opportunity now for the Minister to bring a bit of order back by presenting the current boundary proposals orders for the House to decide on; if she did, we could then move forward one way or the other. I hope that at some point in the near future we will make some progress in Committee or on the current orders before the House.

The Chair: Does the Minister wish to speak?

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Chloe Smith) *indicated dissent.*

Question put and agreed to.

10.2 am

Adjourned till Wednesday 23 January at Ten o'clock.