

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT
GENERAL COMMITTEES

Public Bill Committee

DOMESTIC ABUSE BILL

Third Sitting

Thursday 31 October 2019

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Motion not to proceed with further consideration of the Bill agreed to.
Motion to agree to Special Report agreed to.
Bill to be reported, without amendment.
Written evidence reported to the House.

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

Monday 4 November 2019

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The Committee consisted of the following Members:

Chairs: SIR DAVID AMESS, † DAVID HANSON

† Atkins, Victoria (*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department*)
 Coaker, Vernon (*Gedling*) (Lab)
 † Dakin, Nic (*Scunthorpe*) (Lab)
 † Graham, Luke (*Ochil and South Perthshire*) (Con)
 † Harris, Carolyn (*Swansea East*) (Lab)
 Hughes, Eddie (*Walsall North*) (Con)
 Jardine, Christine (*Edinburgh West*) (LD)
 Johnson, Diana (*Kingston upon Hull North*) (Lab)
 † Jones, Mr Marcus (*Nuneaton*) (Con)
 † Keegan, Gillian (*Chichester*) (Con)

† Merriman, Huw (*Bexhill and Battle*) (Con)
 † Morton, Wendy (*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice*)
 Newton, Sarah (*Truro and Falmouth*) (Con)
 Norris, Alex (*Nottingham North*) (Lab/Co-op)
 Saville Roberts, Liz (*Dwyfor Meirionnydd*) (PC)
 † Scully, Paul (*Sutton and Cheam*) (Con)
 Smith, Eleanor (*Wolverhampton South West*) (Lab)
 Joanna Dodd, Rob Page, *Committee Clerks*
 † **attended the Committee**

Public Bill Committee

Thursday 31 October 2019

[MR DAVID HANSON *in the Chair*]

Domestic Abuse Bill

11.30 am

The Chair: Because of the impending general election, Committee proceedings have changed today.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Victoria Atkins): I beg to move,

That the Committee do not proceed further with the consideration of the Bill.

It is a pleasure to serve under your chairmanship, Mr Hanson, albeit briefly. Following the decision of the House to hold a general election, it is only right that a Public Bill Committee in the new Parliament should scrutinise the Bill thoroughly. The motion before the Committee therefore removes the sittings up to Dissolution. The witnesses who were due to give evidence today have, of course, been notified.

This vital piece of legislation has the potential to help 2 million victims of domestic abuse in this country. I want to reassure victims, survivors and all who work with them that the Government will continue with this legislation in the next Parliament. I thank the Clerks for their assiduous work, and I thank the Badge Messengers, *Hansard* and the Bill team. I thank colleagues—even in one day, they showed their attention to detail with our witnesses—and I thank the witnesses who gave evidence. I thank my fellow Minister, my hon. Friend the Member

for Aldridge-Brownhills, as well as the shadow Minister, the Opposition Whip and my own Whip—I have learned that lesson. Finally, I thank you, Mr Hanson, and Sir David for chairing our Committee, albeit briefly.

Carolyn Harris (Swansea East) (Lab): On behalf of the Opposition, I, too, extend thanks to the Clerks, the Chairmen, the Committee staff and Committee members for their attendance. This is a really important Bill. It is only right that we make this decision, but we look forward to returning to the Bill straight after the general election.

Victoria Atkins: I do apologise; I must also thank my wonderful officials, who have worked so hard. I thank them very much indeed.

The Chair: I add that the Scrutiny Unit has also done a good job in preparing a range of detailed information. None of the work that has been done in preparation for this Bill will be lost, because, as the Minister said, it will be revisited. We will see which Members are on a Committee in due course. I wish everybody every success for the future.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chair: The Committee must now agree a special report to be made to the House.

Ordered,

That the Committee agree the Special Report as on the paper before the Committee and that the Chair do report the Bill to the House.

Bill accordingly to be reported, without amendment.

11.33 am

Committee rose.

Written evidence reported to the House

DAB10 Children's Commissioner

DAB11 Changing Lives

DAB12 SafeLives

DAB13 Nagalro (the Professional Association for Children's Guardians, Family Court Advisers and Independent Social Workers)

DAB14 Brian Maloney

DAB15 The Magistrates Association

DAB16 Andrew Todd

DAB17 Agenda, the alliance for women and girls at risk

DAB18 Parity

DAB19 Centre for Women's Justice

DAB20 Refuge

