Technical Review of the Current English Votes for English Laws Standing Orders
Terms of Reference

Purpose

In October 2015, the House of Commons voted in favour of the government's proposals to introduce English Votes for English Laws with immediate effect. The new process was introduced through changes to the Standing Orders. The government has committed to reviewing the Standing Orders relating to English Votes for English Laws, and the procedures which they introduced, following the introductory period of 12 months from October 2015.

Launching the review, the Leader of the House of Commons, Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP, said:

"The government introduced English Votes for English Laws in October 2015 to address the so called West Lothian Question - the position where English MPs cannot vote on matters which are dealt with in devolved legislation, but MPs with constituencies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can vote on those same matters when the UK Parliament is legislating solely for England. One year on, it is right that we carry out a technical review how the Standing Orders that introduced English Votes for English Laws have operated, and to consider whether any improvements to the operational procedures are necessary."

Scope

Representations are invited from interested parties on any aspect of the operation of the Standing Orders on English Votes for English Laws to date, and in particular on:

- the operation of the certification test
- the impact of the Standing Orders on the legislative process
- any suggestions for how the process could be further improved, or how understanding of the process could be further supported

The government will also take into account the findings of recent inquiries into English Votes for English Laws by the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC), the House of Commons Procedure Committee, and the House of Lords Constitution Committee.

Timing

Submissions are invited by Friday 2 December to englishvotes@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.