

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
TO THE REPORT OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE

‘PROMOTING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
IN THE WORK OF COMMITTEES’

June 2002

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that another conference of committee chairs, deputy chairs and secretaries be held in the first half of the 40th Parliament and similar conferences be conducted at regular intervals.

Supported.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the responsibility for coordinating and hosting future conferences be rotated to different committees and that the Liaison Committee of Committee Chairs and Deputy Chairs or similar body be responsible for selecting a host on each occasion.

Supported.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that the Government strengthen its undertaking to provide a response to a parliamentary committee report within three months of tabling the report and Ministers and departments be directed to improve their performance in relation to this.

The government already has a strong commitment to respond to Committee reports within three months. Ministers and departments are aware of the requirement and endeavour to comply. At times it can be difficult to meet the three month time limit, especially where Committee reports cover complex issues and where responses involve a number of portfolios.

The government is accountable to the House through the Speaker's list of outstanding responses and the report the government provides in relation to that list.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that as soon as a government response to a parliamentary committee report is tabled in either House of the Parliament a copy of the response be posted on the Internet site of the relevant department and the committee concerned be informed of its location.

Where government responses are available on departmental internet sites, Committees will be informed of the location. However, it is a matter for government which responses are posted on departmental sites.

If it would assist committees, the government can provide them with an electronic copy of the text of government responses.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that the Government table at six monthly intervals an action report detailing progress on implementing recommendations contained in reports of parliamentary committees.

Not supported.

Progress on implementation should be followed up through existing avenues. Implementation issues can be raised by Committees directly with Ministers. In addition, Ministers are accountable through well established forms of the House.