

## SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON A DRAFT PROCEDURE FOR COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS

The paper was circulated on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1999; Members were given until 24<sup>th</sup> January 2000 to submit their comments to the Table Office.

There were 20 responses in all; 16 of which were from 1 party.

16 respondents confirmed that they were content with the draft procedure; 3 respondents offered suggestions for improvement/ requested clarification.

### Comments

- The procedure should include provision for Members who have had complaints made against them to be informed at the earliest opportunity.
- In the description of stage 2, replace "filter out" with "triage".
- There is a need to clarify whether the Member will have the right to be accompanied by a friend and if so will there be any limitations (eg could it be a lawyer)?
- Will there be a time limit for proceedings?

**And on the addition to stage 3**, commissioned by the Committee at its last meeting but (by agreement) not reviewed by the Committee prior to the consultation with Members:

- How easy will it be to define "minor nature" in practice? What sorts of "offences" would fall into this category?

*Secretariat January 2000*

