



JOINT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMITTEE OFFICE, HOUSE OF COMMONS
7 MILLBANK, LONDON SW1P 3JA



PRESS NOTICE

No 1, Session 2010-11, 8 September 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Chair of JCHR appointed

At the JCHR's first meeting, on 8 September, **Dr Hywel Francis MP** was appointed as the new Chair of the Joint Committee.

At the same meeting, the Committee also agreed its general approach to scrutiny of legislation and of human rights judgments. More information about the Committee's future work in these areas will be provided in separate press notices, and on the Committee's website.

Publication of the Committee's First Report, Session 2010-11:

The Committee will publish its First Report, *Work of the Committee in 2008–09: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2009–10; Legislative Scrutiny (Finance Bills and Academies Bill)* [HC 459, HL 32], on Wednesday 15 September at 11a.m.

The report will be available from The Stationery Office (tel: 0870 600 5522), Parliamentary Hotline Lo-call 0845 7 023474, Email: book.orders@tso.co.uk, Internet: <http://www.tso.co.uk/bookshop>, TSO shops, The Parliamentary Bookshop, 12 Bridge Street, London SW1A 2JX (tel 020 7219 3890) and through good booksellers. Reports are also available on the Committee's website at the address below on the day of publication.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Dr Hywel Francis has been the MP for Aberavon since June 2001. He has had a longstanding interest in human rights and equality issues, notably in the field of disability, carers and education.

His Private Member's Bill, which became law as the Carers Equal Opportunities Act in 2004, was a landmark piece of legislation in identifying carers' rights. He was the founder and chair of the All Party Parliamentary Carers Group in the last Parliament and has been an officer of a number of Parliamentary Disability Groups including Muscular Dystrophy and Downs Syndrome.

Prior to entering Parliament Dr Francis was Professor of Continuing Education at Swansea University where he pioneered widening access strategies for disadvantaged adult students including the development of the Community University of the Valleys.

As chair of the Select Committee on Welsh Affairs (2005-2010) Dr Francis was responsible for initiating or overseeing a number of inquiries involving equality and human rights issues including health, education, broadcasting, devolution and prisons.

The full membership of the Committee is as follows:

Dr Hywel Francis MP (Labour, <i>Aberavon</i>) (Chairman)	Lord Bowness (Conservative)
Dr Julian Huppert MP (Liberal Democrat, <i>Cambridge</i>)	Baroness Campbell of Surbiton (Cross-bencher)
Mrs Eleanor Laing MP (Conservative, <i>Epping Forest</i>)	Lord Dubs (Labour)
Mr Dominic Raab MP (Conservative, <i>Esher and Walton</i>)	Lord Lester of Herne Hill (Liberal Democrat)
Mr Richard Shepherd MP (Conservative, <i>Aldridge Brownhills</i>)	Baroness Morris of Bolton (Conservative)
Mr Andy Slaughter MP (Labour, <i>Hammersmith</i>)	Lord Morris of Handsworth (Labour)

Clerks of the Committee:

Matthew Hamlyn (House of Commons) 020 7219 2797

Rob Whiteway (House of Lords) 020 7219 6772

ENQUIRIES: 020 7219 2467 FAX: 020 7219 8393 E-MAIL: jchr@parliament.uk

HOME PAGE <http://www.parliament.uk/jchr>

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Liz Parratt: 020 7219 1708 / 07917 488 978