

The Public Accounts Committee's Procedure

The Public Accounts Committee (Committee)'s practice and procedure, as determined by the Committee in accordance with Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure, are as follows:

- (a) the public officers called before the Committee in accordance with Rule 72(8) of the Rules of Procedure, shall normally be the Controlling Officers of the Heads of Revenue or Expenditure to which the Director of Audit (D of A) has referred in his report except where the matter under consideration affects more than one such Head or involves a question of policy or of principle in which case the relevant Bureau Secretary of the Government or other appropriate officers shall be called. Appearance before the Committee shall be a personal responsibility of the public officer called and whilst he may be accompanied by members of his staff to assist him with points of detail, the responsibility for the information or the production of records or documents required by the Committee shall rest with him alone;
- (b) where any matter referred to in the D of A's report on the accounts of the Government relates to the affairs of an organization subvented by the Government, the person normally required to appear before the Committee shall be the Controlling Officer of the vote from which the relevant subvention has been paid, but the Committee shall not preclude the calling of a representative of the subvented body concerned where it is considered that such a representative can assist the Committee in its deliberations;
- (c) the D of A and the Secretary for the Treasury shall be called upon to assist the Committee when Controlling Officers or other persons are providing information or explanation to the Committee;
- (d) the Committee shall take evidence from any parties outside the civil service and the subvented sector before making reference to them in a report;
- (e) the Committee shall not normally make recommendations on a case on the basis solely of the D of A's presentation;
- (f) the Committee shall not allow written submissions from Controlling Officers other than as an adjunct to their personal appearance before the Committee; and
- (g) the Committee shall hold informal consultations with the D of A from time to time, so that the Committee may make suggestions relating to value for money study by the D of A.