

Committee on Unopposed Bills

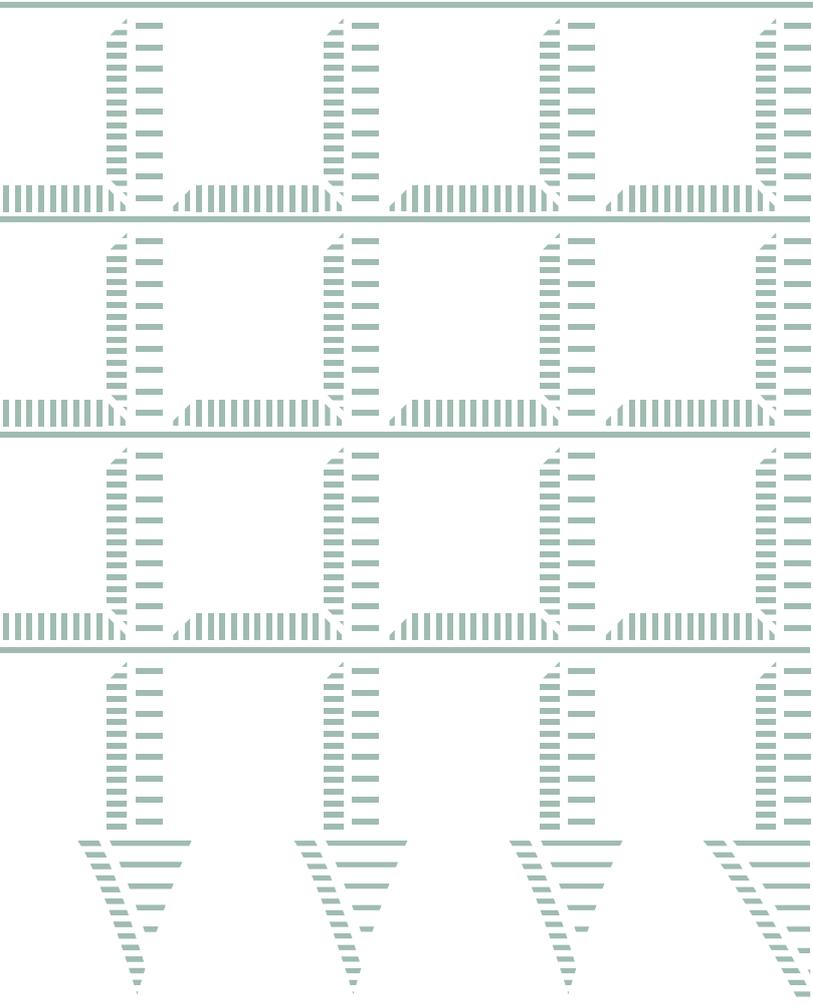
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# Special Report on the Royal Albert Hall Bill [HL]

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First Special Report of Session 2024–26

HC 1659



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# Committee on Unopposed Bills

Under Standing Order 111(2), all unopposed private bills are referred to the Committee on Unopposed Bills, which consists of the Chairman of Ways and Means, the Deputy Chairmen of Ways and Means, and four members selected by the Chairman of Ways and Means from a panel appointed by the Committee of Selection. The Committee will hear from the promoter of the bill before reporting the bill, and any amendments, to the House.

## Membership

[Ms Nusrat Ghani](#) (Conservative; Sussex Weald) (Chair)

[Susan Murray](#) (Liberal Democrat; Mid Dunbartonshire)

[Euan Stainbank](#) (Labour; Falkirk)

[Peter Swallow](#) (Labour; Bracknell)

[Claire Young](#) (Liberal Democrat; Thornbury and Yate)

## Publication

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Committee Reports are published online at <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/764/Royal-Albert-Hall-Bill-HL/> and in print by Order of the House.

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# Consideration of the Royal Albert Hall Bill [HL]

1. The Royal Albert Hall Bill [HL] was deposited in Parliament in November 2022 and introduced into the House of Lords in January 2023.<sup>1</sup> It was amended both in committee and at Third Reading in that House. At Third Reading, a new clause titled ‘Restrictions on powers to exclude members’ (which was opposed by the promoter of the Bill) was agreed to on division and inserted into the Bill as Clause 5.<sup>2</sup> The Bill was subsequently introduced into the House of Commons in January 2025.<sup>3</sup> The Bill received a Second Reading in July 2025,<sup>4</sup> and as no petitions were submitted against it the Bill was referred to the Committee on Unopposed Bills.
2. The role of the Committee with regards to an unopposed bill is to consider whether the need for the bill (the ‘preamble’) has been proved, whether the measures included in the bill are appropriate and proportionate for the purposes of achieving the promoter’s aims, and whether any amendments should be made to the bill.
3. Upon appearing before our Committee in January 2026,<sup>5</sup> the promoter of the Bill proposed two amendments: to make a minor correction to the preamble, and to remove Clause 5 (the clause inserted at Third Reading in the House of Lords).<sup>6</sup> This clause would have placed restrictions on the operation of the power to exclude members from the Hall granted to the promoter by Clause 4.<sup>7</sup> The promoter acknowledged the concerns which led to the introduction to Clause 5—which primarily stemmed from the

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1 For the version of the Bill introduced into the House of Lords, see: <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49505/documents/4333>

2 HL Deb, [29 January 2025](#)

3 For the version of the Bill introduced into the House of Commons, see: <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/58472/documents/5863>

4 HC Deb, [14 July 2025](#)

5 For the transcript of proceedings before the Committee on Unopposed Bill, see: <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/64357/documents/7629>

6 For the paper of amendments proposed by the promoter, see: <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/64362/documents/7630>

7 For the full text of Clause 5, see the version of the Bill introduced into the House of Commons: <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/58472/documents/5863>

recognised conflict of interest created by members of the Council of the Royal Albert Hall also being seat-holders—but believed that they would be better addressed in a different way.

4. The promoter therefore offered an undertaking to the Committee that, in lieu of Clause 5, the Council of the Royal Albert Hall would adopt a ticket income declaration policy. This policy would require all Council members to annually declare the total amount of money they received from the sale of their tickets.<sup>8</sup>
5. We welcomed the undertaking offered by the promoter but considered that it needed to be strengthened. We therefore requested that the promoter amend the proposed undertaking by ensuring that the reporting requirements also covered income received by certain family members when selling the tickets of a Council member, and by including a requirement to notify the Chairman of Ways and Means and the Charity Commission where it is proposed to change or cancel the policy.
6. The promoter has made those amendments to the proposed ticket income declaration policy. We therefore bring the final form of the undertaking—which can be found in the Annex to this report—to the attention of the House, and report the Bill as amended (with the removal of Clause 5 and the minor correction to the preamble).

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8 For the undertaking originally proposed to the Committee, see pages 23 and 24 of [Ian McCulloch's witness statement](#)

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# Annex: Promoter's undertaking to Parliament in lieu of Clause 5

## **Background and purpose**

Seat-holders at the Royal Albert Hall ('the Corporation') are legally entitled to sell the tickets allocated to them as they choose. The potential for private profit arising from this creates an inherent (authorised) conflict of interests when a seat-holder is also a Trustee of the Corporation, even though any such profit is not at the expense of the Corporation.

The Corporation considers that it properly and effectively manages this conflict of interests so that the interests of the Corporation remain paramount in its decision-making.

It is not in any event within the legal purview of the Corporation or a purpose of the Bill to restrict the exercise of the seat-holders' private property right.

Nevertheless, the arrangement attracts concern which caused clause 5 to be added to the Bill at Third Reading in the House of Lords.

The Corporation acknowledges the concern but respectfully considers that it would be better addressed another way. Therefore, in line with public expectation of those in public office but to a greater extent, the Corporation has agreed to introduce a policy requiring all seat-holder Trustees, while they are in office, to allow the Hall to declare publicly (which it will do annually on its website) both (a) their total ticket income and (b) subject to reasonable enquiry, the proceeds of any sales of tickets given to a family member, even when the family member keeps the proceeds.

The undertaking is intended to be of indefinite duration but may be modified or terminated if the underlying concern to which it is a response is addressed in another way, e.g. by constitutional or legislative change.

## **Undertaking**

The Corporation undertakes that, forthwith upon the Bill receiving Royal Assent without the inclusion of clause 5, the Council of the Royal Albert Hall will adopt the following policy:

## **Ticket Income Declaration Policy**

- 1.** The purpose of this policy is to provide transparency in the context of seat-owning Council members having a conflict of interests between their duty as charity trustees and their private interest as seat-holders.
- 2.** The policy applies to each Council member with a controlling beneficial interest in one or more seats in the Hall's auditorium.
- 3.** In this policy–

“total ticket income” means the income received after the adoption of this policy by such Council member from the sale of tickets, howsoever sold, deriving from his or her seat-holding, whether it is held by that Council member alone or jointly with another person, net of any transaction fees and commission;

“controlling” means having control, alone or jointly with another person, over how and at what price tickets in respect of the seat-holding may be sold;

“Council member” means, where the context so requires, “former Council member”; and

“relevant family member” means–

- a.** a spouse or civil partner of the Council member, or
  - b.** a parent (including step-parent), child (including step-child) or sibling (including step-sibling) of the Council member or their spouse or civil partner.
- 4.** Each such Council member is required to report to the Corporation, either separately or in aggregate:
    - a.** the total ticket income he or she receives, and
    - b.** subject to reasonable enquiry of any relevant family member, any ticket income (net of any transaction fees and commission) deriving from the Council member's seat-holding where the ticket has been given to, and the proceeds of any sale are retained by, such family member,

while he or she is a Council member.

- 5.** The information to be reported under paragraph 4 above by a Council member who is a Council member at the end of a calendar year shall be the income received in that year and it shall be provided within 60 days of the end of that year.

6. The information to be reported under paragraph 4 above by a Council member who ceases to be a Council member during the course of a calendar year shall be the income received while that person was a Council member in that year and shall be reported within 60 days of them ceasing to be a Council member.
7. In reporting to the Corporation as above, the Council member consents to the Corporation making publicly available the information that he or she has reported, including the name of the Council member but shall not be required to disclose the name of any relevant family member.
8. By 31 March each year, the Corporation shall make publicly available on its website–
  - a. the information reported to it by each Council member as above in respect of the preceding calendar year, and
  - b. the number of seats in the Hall held by the Council member in respect of which the total ticket income is reported.
9. This policy will not be changed or cancelled without the consent of the Corporation’s Conflict of Interests Committee or of such other group of non-conflicted Council members as may perform a similar function to that of the Conflict of Interests Committee, and when proposing to change or cancel the policy the Council will notify the Chairman of Ways and Means and the Charity Commission.
10. A material failure by a Council member to comply with this policy will be treated as a breach of the Hall’s Code of Conduct for Trustees. The failure will be reported to the President under the terms of the Code, who, in the absence of adequately mitigating circumstances, will be expected to report the failure to the Charity Commission as a potential serious incident under its regulatory requirement to report such incidents.

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# Formal minutes

## Tuesday 13 January 2026

### Members present:

Nusrat Ghani, in the Chair

Susan Murray

Euan Stainbank

Peter Swallow

Claire Young

### Consideration of the Royal Albert Hall Bill [HL]

The Committee considered this matter.

### Royal Albert Hall Bill [HL]

David Mundy, of Broadfield Law UK LLP, appeared as Parliamentary Agent for the Promoter of the Bill. James Ainscough, Chief Executive of the Royal Albert Hall, and Ian McCulloch, Trustee and former President of the Royal Albert Hall, gave evidence.

### Adjournment

The Committee adjourned until a day to be appointed by the Chair.

## Monday 19 January 2026

### Members present:

Nusrat Ghani, in the Chair

Susan Murray

Euan Stainbank

Peter Swallow

Claire Young

**Undertaking offered by the promoter of the Royal Albert Hall Bill [HL]**

The Committee considered this matter.

## Adjournment

The Committee adjourned until a day to be appointed by the Chair.

## Tuesday 3 March 2026

### Members present:

Nusrat Ghani, in the Chair

Susan Murray

Euan Stainbank

Claire Young

### Special Report on the Royal Albert Hall Bill [HL]

Draft Report (*Special Report on the Royal Albert Hall Bill [HL]*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, that the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 6 read and agreed to.

Annex agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

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# Witnesses

The following witnesses gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the Committee's website: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/764/royal-albert-hall-bill-hl/>

## Tuesday 13 January 2026

**David Mundy** (Parliament Agent at Broadfield Law UK LLP), **James Ainscough** (Chief Executive at Royal Albert Hall), and **Ian McCulloch** (former President at Royal Albert Hall) [Q1-245](#)