

Creating new opportunities for advisers.

60 Seconds with pensions campaigner and life peer Ros Altmann

'My parliamentary peers got banned from Zooming on trains.'

By Ollie Smith
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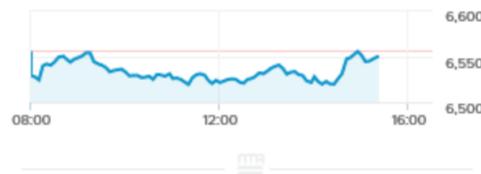
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First off, how are you?

Physically I'm fine, but the current turmoil is taking its toll on everyone's mental wellbeing. Whether you agree with lockdown or not, whether you agree with Brexit or not, it is hard to see many positives right now.

How does one navigate lockdown as a peer?

At the beginning we were told not to come to Westminster, and all House of Lords proceedings were moved online. The Lords has now moved to hybrid sittings. Those who want to come in can do so, while those who don't can participate on Zoom.

Is the new situation frustrating?

If a minister does not answer a question properly, you cannot follow up. Lately we have been debating huge swathes of regulation, which is just rubber-stamping emergency lockdown measures introduced weeks ago. When I remember how difficult it used to be, and how long it took to get officials to change one tiny piece of pension regulation, it is amazing how much is now going through without impact assessments or proper debate.

Are you still driving a Nissan Leaf?

Yes, I'm on my third Leaf now and I love it. This one has a longer range and does everything I need from a car. I hope electric vehicle uptake rises sharply as we recover.