

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
313th MEETING HELD  
AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2023**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL, Chair  
Lady Mary Arden DBE  
Ewen Fergusson  
Professor Gillian Peele (joined the meeting remotely)  
Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP  
Baroness Finn

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board (joined the meeting remotely)

Elliot Ammar, Senior Policy Adviser  
Amy Austin, Policy Adviser  
Maggie O'Boyle, Press Officer<sup>1</sup>

**1. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

**2. REGISTERS**

Members were asked to let the Secretariat know of any changes to their register of interests which had been circulated.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2023 were agreed.

**Chair's update**

**CSPL meeting with Commons Committee on Standards**

Members discussed the meeting that had been held with the Committee on Standards to discuss the regulation of MPs.

**Recruitment for independent member**

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<sup>1</sup> Maggie O'Boyle provides part-time press support to the Civil Service Commission, the House of Lords Appointments Commission, the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments and the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

It was noted that adverts for the Chair and the independent member have now gone live. The closing date for both is 4 July 2023.

### **Leading in Practice**

Members noted that a number of speaking engagements on *Leading in Practice* had been received and confirmed for the Chair and Ewen Fergusson.

### **National Security Bill - amendment on donations**

It was noted that the National Security Bill would return to the Lords on 21 June for consideration of Commons amendments.

### **Meeting with House of Lords Conduct Committee**

On 18 May, the Chair met with Baroness Manningham-Buller, Chair of the Lords Conduct Committee, to discuss changes to the Lords' Code of Conduct's provisions on paid parliamentary advice and services. The Conduct Committee was aiming to clarify the rules on exercising parliamentary influence, offering parliamentary advice and the exclusive benefit rule.

### **FOI request**

Members noted an FOI request to the Committee through the WhatDoTheyKnow website. The following information was requested from the Committee:

- all correspondence and communications between the Chair of the committee and the Secretary of State for levelling up between January 2022 and the date this request was received; and
- all correspondence and communications between the Chair of the committee and the department for levelling up between January 2022 and the date this request was received.

We confirmed that all the relevant correspondence between the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Committee is published on our website.

### **Interviews and blog**

On 25 May, we published a blog on our 2020 AI report. The blog was a reminder of our recommendations in relation to AI and public standards.

On 28 May, the Chair was interviewed on Radio 4's Westminster Hour on the importance of standards; and, separately, quoted in the Observer in an article on foreign donations to political parties.

## **Mapping of Principles**

The Committee discussed a proposal on internalising the culture of the Seven Principles of Public Life in public sector codes of conduct. The Chair of the Research Advisory Board would undertake further research.

## **PACAC inquiry into Civil Service Leadership and Reform**

As previously agreed, the Committee would contribute to this inquiry. The Secretariat would circulate a draft for members' comments.

### **4. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee agreed to hold a seminar on lobbying in the autumn. The seminar would consider themes such as: how the system works & issues with the current process; Improving transparency; building ethical standards in lobbying.

### **5. AI AND PUBLIC STANDARDS: UPDATE**

Members considered a paper which provided an update on developments and progress made against our recommendations contained in our *AI and public standards* report, published in 2020.

Members agreed that we should start making preparations to host a seminar later in the year so that the Committee members can get an update on how regulators and public bodies are adapting to the current challenges posed by AI in line with the recommendations from our report.

### **6. ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Committee members approved the final draft of the Annual Report which would be published in July.

### **7. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES**

The Committee noted the media coverage of live standards issues which had been circulated.

### **8. FORWARD AGENDA**

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

### **9. AOB**

#### **Communications Update**

The Committee noted the Press Officer's comms brief and the communications updates for May 2023.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 20 July 2023 at 10.00.

CSPL Secretariat  
May 2023