

## PRESS NOTICE

# Committee on Standards in Public Life

21 March 2016

### COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE CALLS ON PCC CANDIDATES TO SIGN ETHICAL CHECKLIST

Candidates standing to be Police and Crime Commissioners at the May elections are being asked to sign up to a standards checklist by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Following its inquiry last year into [local policing accountability](#), the Committee is calling for all candidates to declare their approach to conduct, appointments and hospitality so that the public can make an informed judgement when casting their vote.

Lord (Paul) Bew, Chair of the Committee said:

“The introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners has undoubtedly shaken things up. The arrival of an ‘unshackled’ democratically accountable figurehead has brought about new ways of working and greater public engagement in many areas. But there have also been concerns about the way some individual PCCs have behaved or the way in which some decisions have been taken. New proposals to give PCCs further powers over fire and rescue services means that ethical standards, scrutiny and accountability are even more important.

“Our role is to help promote the highest standards of behaviour by holders of public office. We hope the media will ask these questions about ethics when interviewing their local candidates and that candidates will publicise their responses on their campaign literature, social media and websites.

”As holders of public office, all PCCs must adhere to the Nolan principles of public life. We are asking all candidates to declare their approach to these important issues up front so that voters can make informed judgements about their future PCC.”

## Notes to Editors

- 1. Interview requests and media enquiries should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.**
2. The Committee on Standards in Public Life advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in the UK. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders.
3. The ethical checklist for PCC candidates was a recommendation from the Committee's report 'Tone from the Top' published in June 2015.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cspl-launches-tone-from-the-top-leadership-ethics-and-accountability-in-policing>. The report called for greater energy and consistency to be applied to promoting high ethical standards and for a more robust set of checks and balances in the accountability structures of local policing. The responses received to the report are all published on the Committee's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/committee-publishes-responses-to-tone-from-the-top-report>
4. The current members of the Committee are: Lord (Paul) Bew, Chairman, Lord Alderdice, Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP, Sheila Drew Smith OBE, Patricia Moberly, Monisha Shah, Richard Thomas CBE and Dame Angela Watkinson DBE MP.