**CSPL (17) 12**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST MEETING**

**THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2017 AT 10:00**

**ROOM GC05.1, 1 HORSE GUARDS ROAD,** **LONDON, SW1A 2HQ**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Bew, Chair

Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Sheila Drew Smith OBE

Jane Ramsey

Lord Stunell OBE

Richard Thomas CBE

Secretariat: Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Dee Goddard, Senior Policy Advisor

Renny Mendoza, Senior Policy Advisor

Apologies: Dr Jane Martin CBE

Monisha Shah

Dame Angela Watkinson DBE MP *(on leave of absence)*

The Committee welcomed Dee Goddard on her return to the Secretariat.

**1. Registers**

The Committee reviewed the register of interests, and the registers of external meetings, gifts and hospitality. It was agreed that henceforth the registers would be printed for members every other month. The registers would still be a monthly agenda item and updated monthly on the website.

**2. Minutes and matters arising**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016.

*House of Lords reform: press interview*

Committee members noted and welcomed the Chair’s interview that had appeared in the Daily Telegraph over Christmas and which had received good media coverage.

The Chair also reported that he had attended Lord Kakkar’s (Chair of House of Lords Appointments Commission) appearance before the House of Lords Constitution Committee on 18 January.

*Informal meeting with John Manzoni, Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office and Chief Executive of the Civil Service*

The Chair reported a positive meeting with Mr Manzoni where the Chair had explained the constrained resources under which the Committee was operating. Mr Manzoni had confirmed that the Government was committed to the Committee going forward; he thought the Committee was providing good value for money. Mr Manzoni suggested that the Committee might put forward a business case if it felt there was a need for increased resources for a particular project.

Mr Manzoni said he would be happy to arrange for one of his colleagues to discuss the follow up work to Ethical Services for Public Service Providers.

The Committee noted that the Chair was due to meet the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Ben Gummer, on 7 February.

It was suggested that the Secretariat should monitor developments in the United States with regard to ethics, as there may be opportunities for comparison.

*Public Appointments Governance Code*

The Committee noted that the Public Appointments Commissioner, Peter Riddell, would attend the March Committee meeting to discuss the the new Public Appointments Governance Code.

*Dame Louise Casey’s review into opportunity and integration: British values*

The Committee noted that the team at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had requested a meeting with the Secretariat to discuss Dame Louise Casey’s recommendation to ‘increase standards of leadership and integrity in public office, by: ensuring that British values such as respect for the rule of law, equality and tolerance are enshrined in the principles of public life and developing a new oath for holders of public office’. This might be followed in due course by a discussion with Dame Louise at a future Committee meeting.

*Membership of the Committee*

The Committee discussed its membership going forward.

**3. Referendum Seminar**

The Committee noted and approved the paper summarising the Referendum seminar held on 22 November. The paper, setting out key themes and issues raised at the seminar, would be published on the website, subject to adding a final paragraph setting out proposed next steps.

It was noted that the Electoral Commission was arranging a follow up meeting to the meeting held on 1 November 2016 on referendums. The Chair, Richard Thomas and Jane Ramsey would attend on behalf of the Committee.

**4. Local Government**

The Committee noted the first draft scoping note on a potential future project on local government. It was agreed that more information was needed to aid discussion. The Committee would take a final decision on whether to proceed and the terms of reference of any project on local government, once they had had an opportunity to consider evidence and research on the current position.

**5. Ethical Standards for Public Service Providers**

The note reporting progress on the follow up to the report on *Ethical Standards for Public Service Providers* was noted.

**6. House of Commons Committee on Standards**

The Committee noted the updated agenda for the informal meeting with the Committee on Standards on 31 January 2017.

**7. Standards Check**

The Committee noted the standards check. It was agreed that the Committee should write to the Chief People Office, Cabinet Office, about the forthcoming Leadership Academy, drawing attention to the Committee’s previous work on ethical leadership training extending to all those involved in commissioning services/contractors.

**11. Forward work programme and future grid**

The Committee noted the forward work programme and future grid.

**12. AOB**

The Committee noted the communications update.

The Committee noted the appointment of Rob Behrens CBE as the new Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

**Date of next meeting**: Thursday 23 February 2017 at 10:00.

**CSPL Secretariat**

**January 2017**