

**PRESS NOTICE**

**25 April 2014**

**Standards Chairman welcomes new police Code of Ethics and  
calls for Police and Crime Commissioners to ‘lead by example’**

The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life has welcomed the publication of the College of Policing’s new Code of Ethics and called on Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to take a stronger lead on police ethics.

Chairman of the Committee Lord (Paul) Bew said:

“The new Code of Ethics is timely, in the current climate of police and public concern about the behaviour of particular police officers and police forces and I am pleased that it draws on the Seven Principles of Public Life. While codes of ethics are used to set standards of behaviour, to be effective and achieve culture change any code must be reinforced and actively implemented at an organisational level. This will involve the Code being incorporated into recruitment, training, professional development and the consequences of non-compliance made clear and linked to disciplinary machinery. High standards of behaviour should be encouraged and rewarded and all employees should feel able and supported to challenge unethical behaviour at any level. The Committee therefore welcomes the College’s production of an assessment guide and organisational model to accompany the Code.

“As democratically elected post-holders, Police and Crime Commissioners have a key role in reassuring the public by holding the Chief Constable to account for putting in place robust systems to monitor and evaluate implementation so that high standards are experienced as an integral part of everyday business.

“It is my Committee’s view that Police and Crime Commissioners should lead by example in publishing their own Code of Ethics to underpin their role in holding Chief Constables to account. Such a Code would provide the public with a common understanding of expected standards for PCCs, and should be seamlessly linked with the College of Policing’s Code of Conduct. We are concerned that to date few Police and Crime Commissioners have published their own Code of Conduct. It is something the Committee intend to track in the coming months alongside the implementation of the new Code across police forces.

“We have written to Police and Crime Commissioners today emphasising the importance of their role as ethical leaders both in exemplifying high ethical standards and in ensuring they meet their responsibilities to improve police accountability and improve public trust.”

*Ends*

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- 1. Media enquiries please contact Maggie O’Boyle on 07880 740627.**
2. More information about the work of the Committee is available on its website: [www.public-standards.gov.uk](http://www.public-standards.gov.uk).
3. The Committee on Standards in Public Life is an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) sponsored by the Cabinet Office. The Chair and Members are appointed by the Prime Minister. The Committee was established in October 1994 with the following terms of reference: “To examine current concerns about standards of conduct of all holders of public office, including arrangements relating to financial and commercial activities, and make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements which might be required to ensure the highest standards of propriety in public life.” Additional terms of reference were announced on 12 November 1997: “To review issues in relation to the funding of political parties, and to make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements.” In February 2013 the terms of reference were clarified by the Government in two respects: ‘...in future the Committee should not inquire into matters relating to the devolved legislatures and governments except with the agreement of those bodies’ and that the Committee’s remit encompasses all those in other sectors delivering public services. Hansard (HC), 5 February 2013, Col 7WS .
4. The Code of Ethics has been produced by the College of Policing: <http://www.college.police.uk/>. For media enquiries about the College’s work, call 020 3113 7938, 020 3113 7207 or 0203 3113 7240.
5. The Committee on Standards in Public Life responded to the College of Policing’s consultation on the draft Code of Ethics in November 2013. The consultation response is available on the Committee’s website: [www.public-standards.gov.uk](http://www.public-standards.gov.uk). Members of the Committee on Standards in Public Life also met with the College of Policing and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners during the process of developing the draft Code.
6. The current members of the Committee are: Lord (Paul) Bew, Chairman, Rt Hon Lord Alderdice, Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett MP DBE, Sheila Drew Smith OBE, Patricia

Moberly, Dame Denise Platt DBE, David Prince CBE and Richard Thomas CBE and Dame Angela Watkinson MP DBE.