

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIXTH MEETING
HELD AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2020
BY CONFERENCE CALL**

MINUTES

Present: Lord Evans KCB DL, Chair
Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP
Dr Jane Martin CBE
Dame Shirley Pearce DBE
Jane Ramsey
Monisha Shah
Rt Hon Lord Stunell OBE
Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board

Amy Austin, Senior Policy Adviser
Lesley Glanz, Executive Assistant
Nicola Richardson, Senior Policy Adviser
Aaron Simons, Senior Policy Adviser
Maggie O'Boyle, Press Officer

The meeting was held by conference call in view of the coronavirus and government advice to avoid unnecessary travel and to work remotely wherever possible.

1. APOLOGIES

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary to the Committee, sent apologies.

2. REGISTERS

Members were asked to let the Secretariat know of any changes to their register of interests.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2020 were agreed.

Chair's update

The Committee noted the Chair's update which reported progress made on follow-up to our report on AI and public standards, including a meeting with Sarah Healey, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

4. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed proposed terms of reference for a future review, and agreed to maintain a watching brief on the impact of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic on the Principles and public life.

5. INTIMIDATION IN PUBLIC LIFE: FOLLOW UP

The Committee noted an update on work to progress the proposed joint statement of conduct for political party members. The Committee also discussed intimidation of figures in public life who are in the public eye as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, such as those working on the NHS frontline.

6. BULLYING AND HARASSMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Committee noted its close watching brief on this issue.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOLLOW UP

The Committee noted an update on the implementation of recommendations made in our local government ethical standards report and a plan on next steps.

8. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee approved the first draft of the annual report, subject to minor changes.

9. STANDARDS CHECK

The standards check for March/April was noted.

10. FORWARD AGENDA AND FORWARD LOOK OF EVENTS

The Committee noted the forward agenda and forward look of key events.

11. AOB

The Committee discussed the ongoing importance of ethical standards for all public sector workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Communications Update

The Committee noted the communications update for March 2020.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21 May 2020 at 10.00 via video call.