**CSPL (20) 78**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING**

**HELD AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 16 JULY 2020**

**BY VIDEO 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

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

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 video call in view of COVID-19.

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no 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 18 June 2020 were agreed.

**Chair’s update**

The Committee noted forthcoming meetings and discussed the response to Alastair Campbell’s article in the *Independent* and forthcoming article in the *New European*.

**4. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

**Regulation of Election Finance Review**

The Committee noted good progress to date on the review of election finance. Members noted the dates of the proposed roundtables in September and would let the Secretariat know of any individuals they thought should be invited.

**Second Review**

The TOR for a second review were confirmed subject to noting some key elements of focus for the review.

**5. AI AND PUBLIC STANDARDS: FOLLOW UP**

The Committee noted and agreed the proposed plan to follow up the AI and Public Standards report.

**6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS: FOLLOW UP**

The Committee noted the Chair had written to the Secretary of State chasing the government’s response to the local government ethical standards report; and that the Secretariat had emailed all local authorities reminding them that we would be writing in the autumn asking about their progress against our best practice recommendations.

It was noted that the Municipal Journal continued to take a strong interest in the report and lack of government’s response to date.

The Secretariat would rearrange the meeting between Dr Martin (lead member on the report) and the Chair of the LGA (postponed due to COVID-19).

**7. INTIMIDATION IN PUBLIC LIFE: FOLLOW UP**

The Committee noted the planned follow up on intimidation in public life, including to re-engage with political parties on the joint statement of conduct.

**8. BULLYING AND HARASSMENT IN PARLIAMENT**

The Committee noted recent developments in both Houses of Parliament. The Committee noted in particular the Commons Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and Commons Committee on Standards wish to revisit the confidentiality agreements of July 2018 and publish lists of ongoing non-ICGS investigations and have the discretion to disclose information on ICGS cases where appropriate. It was agreed to invite the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to a future meeting of the Committee.

**9. COVID-19: WATCHING BRIEF**

The Committee discussed recent blogs by Committee members. A further blog on the principles in practice would be published in late July subject to some final editing. All blogs would be circulated to members before publication.

**10. STANDARDS CHECK**

The standards check for June/July was noted.

**11. FORWARD AGENDA AND FORWARD LOOK OF EVENTS**

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

**12. AOB**

**Communications Update**

The Committee noted the communications update for June 2020.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 10 September 2020 at 10.00 via video conference call.

CSPL Secretariat

July 2020