**CSPL (21) 32**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**300th MEETING**

**HELD VIRTUALLY AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 19 MAY 2022**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL, Chair

Ewen Fergusson

Professor Dame Shirley Pearce DBE

Professor Gillian Peele

Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Rt Hon Lord Stunell OBE

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Nicola Richardson, Senior Policy Adviser

Aaron Simons, Senior Policy Adviser

Amy Austin, Senior Policy Adviser

Lesley Glanz, Executive Assistant

Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer[[1]](#footnote-0)

**1. APOLOGIES**

Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP

Professor Mark Philp (Chair, Research Advisory Board)

**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 21 April 2022 were agreed, subject to noting the Committee’s concern about the continued delay to recruiting for the vacancy for the independent member.

**Chair’s update**

Members noted:

The Chair had spoken at the Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) Leadership Conference held on 13 May.

Ewen Fergusson had spoken at the latest Non-Executive Directors’ Induction Event held on 26 April.

Ewen Fergusson had accepted an invitation to speak to members of the PRCA (Public Relations and Communications Association) on 25 May, on recommendations on strengthening transparency around lobbying from the Committee’s *Upholding Standards in Public Life* report.

The Secretariat is maintaining a watching brief on new allegations of bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment in Parliament. This follows a number of recent stories in the media.

The Commons Standards Committee had published a report on APPGs with proposals for reform; MPs and Peers had been invited to comment.

The Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists’ new guidance in 2 areas: any firm which conducts lobbying that ‘makes a significant contribution to its non-lobbying work’ must now register; and consultant lobbyists will now have to declare APPGs as clients if they provide secretariat support to those APPGs, and communicate with ministers or permanent secretaries.

Dame Shirley Pearce reported that she had been on the panel for the selection of the next Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

**4. LEADING IN PRACTICE**

Members noted an update on progress with the Leading in Practice review. Members discussed the review and made suggestions for further evidence gathering.

**5. AI AND PUBLIC STANDARDS: UPDATE**

Members noted a paper which reported on developments since the publication of *AI and Public Standards*.

**6. ANNUAL REPORT**

Members noted the second draft of the 2021/22 annual report and made suggestions for stronger emphasis in key areas.

**7. STANDARDS CHECK**

The Committee noted the media coverage of standards issues which are circulated daily to members.

**8. FORWARD AGENDA**

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

**9. AOB**

**Secretariat**

Secretariat staffing was discussed. Members noted that approval had not yet been given to fill the upcoming Senior Policy Advisor vacancy.

**Communications Update**

The Committee noted the communications update for April 2022.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 16 June 2022 at 10.00. This meeting would be held in person in 1 Horse Guards Road, London.

CSPL Secretariat

May 2022

1. Maggie O’Boyle provides part-time press support to the Civil Service Commission, the House of Lords Appointments Commission, the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments and the Committee on Standards in Public Life. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)