**CSPL (21) 38**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**302nd MEETING**

**HELD AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2022,**

**1 HORSE GUARDS ROAD, LONDON**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL, Chair

Ewen Fergusson

Professor Dame Shirley Pearce DBE

Professor Gillian Peele (virtually)

Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Rt Hon Lord Stunell OBE

Rt Hon Sir Jeremy Wright MP (virtually)

Professor Mark Philp (Chair, Research Advisory Board)

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Nicola Richardson, Senior Policy Adviser

Amy Austin, Senior Policy Adviser

Lesley Glanz, Executive Assistant

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

None were received.

**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 meetings held on 19 and 31 May 2022 were agreed. (An extra meeting was held on 31 May to discuss the government changes to the Ministerial Code and the terms of reference of the role of the Ministerial Adviser, and the Committee’s position.)

**Chair’s update**

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair congratulated Sir Jeremy Wright on the award of his Knighthood in The Queen's Jubilee Birthday Honours List 2022.

The Chair reported that No 10 had now confirmed that recruitment of independent members for the Committee could go ahead. (The Committee had had a vacancy for an independent member since January; and Dame Shirley Pearce’s term of appointment was due to end in March 2023.) The recruitment would be run by the Public Appointments Team in the Cabinet Office.

Members noted the resignation on 15 June 2022 of Lord Geidt as Independent Adviser on Ministers’ Interests. (At the time of the meeting, Lord Geidt’s resignation letter had not been published.)

In addition, members noted:

* Good media coverage of the Committee’s blog on the changes to the Ministerial Code and TOR of the Independent Adviser.
* Lord Pickles, Chair, ACOBA, had appeared before PACAC on 9 June; and Lord Geidt had appeared before PACAC on 14 June.
* The Opposition Debate on 7 June on our *Upholding Standards in Public Life* report. Dame Margaret Beckett had spoken in the debate.
* Lord Young’s question in the Lords to HMG: *when they will respond to the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in its report Upholding Standards in Public Life, published on 1 November 2021; and in particular, the recommendations on the Ministerial Code and the Independent Adviser on Ministers’ Interests.* The Chair had spoken in the debate and raised the issue of the independent member vacancy.
* A meeting with Chairs of Independent Offices had been arranged for 5 July.

**4. LEADING IN PRACTICE**

Members noted an update on progress with the Leading in Practice review and evidence received. The review would be discussed again at the July meeting.

**5. ANNUAL REPORT**

Members noted the third draft of the 2021/22 annual report. It was noted that some sections would need updating in the light of recent developments.

**6. STANDARDS CHECK**

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

**7. FORWARD AGENDA**

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

**8. AOB**

**Communications Update**

The Committee noted the communications update for May 2022.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 21 July 2022 at 09.00 -12.30, when the Committee’s future work programme would be discussed.

This meeting would be held in person in Church House, Westminster, London, as it had not been possible to make suitable arrangements in I Horse Guard Road.

Members expressed concern about the difficulty in obtaining meeting rooms and suggested this should be escalated.

CSPL Secretariat

June 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)