**CSPL (21) 50**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**304th MEETING HELD REMOTELY**

**AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2022,**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL, Chair

Ewen Fergusson

Professor Dame Shirley Pearce DBE

Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Rt Hon Lord Stunell OBE

Rt Hon Sir Jeremy Wright MP

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**

Professor Gillian Peele

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 which had been circulated.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2022 were agreed.

**Chair’s update**

It was noted that a number of external events planned for the week of 12 September had been postponed following the death of Her Majesty The Queen.

It was noted that the Public Service (Integrity and Ethics) Bill [HL] had been introduced by Lord Anderson of Ipswich on 6 September. The Bill’s long title is: A Bill to make provision about mechanisms for promoting and protecting standards of integrity and ethics in the public service; and for connected purposes. The Secretariat will monitor the Bill’s progress.

It was noted that the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee, as a statutory consultee, was conducting an inquiry on the draft Strategy and Policy Statement for the Election Commission. The Statement had been provided for by the Elections Act.

Members noted updates to the Committee’s political appointments: the reappointment to the Committee of Dame Margaret Beckett MP (Labour); the appointment of Baroness Simone Finn (Conservative) from 21 November 2022; and the appointment of Jeane Freeman (SNP) from 1 December 2022. Ministers had decided that the third political party on the Committee would henceforth be represented by the SNP, the third largest party in the Commons.

The Chair thanked the outgoing members, Sir Jeremy Wright MP (Conservative) and Lord Stunell (Liberal Democrat) for their outstanding commitment and tremendous contribution to the work of the Committee. Members agreed it had been a privilege to work with their colleagues, on both a personal and professional level.

Members noted that the timetable for recruitment of the independent member had been rescheduled in light of the national mourning period.

**4. LEADING IN PRACTICE**

Members welcomed the first draft of the report. Members’ comments and suggestions were noted and a further draft would be considered at the October meeting.

**5. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

Members agreed to defer a decision about the Committee’s future work pending the arrival of new members.

**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 updates for July and August 2022.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 20 October 2022 at 10.00.

CSPL Secretariat

September 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)