**CSPL (21) 57**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**305th MEETING HELD IN 1 HORSE GUARDS ROAD, LONDON,**

**AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL, Chair

Ewen Fergusson

Professor Dame Shirley Pearce DBE (remote)

Professor Gillian Peele (remote)

Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Rt Hon Lord Stunell OBE

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Nicola Richardson, Senior Policy Adviser

Amy Austin, Policy Adviser

Lesley Glanz, Executive Assistant

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

Elliot Ammar (newly appointed to the Secretariat), observing

**1. APOLOGIES**

Rt Hon Sir 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 which had been circulated.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2022 were agreed.

**Chair’s update**

This would have been Sir Jeremy Wright’s last meeting, and on behalf of the Committee, the Chair sent his thanks to Sir Jeremy Wright for his invaluable service to the Committee and for being an excellent colleague, dedicated to high standards in public life. All members wished him well.

The Committee noted:

* The Chair had written to Simon Clarke, Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, registering disappointment with the government response to our Local Government report.
* The Chair’s introductory meeting with Simon Madden, Director, Propriety and Ethics Team, Cabinet Office, held on 13 October.
* The Chair’s meeting with Ed Humpherson, Director General, Regulation, Head of the Office for Statistics Regulation, held on 18 October.
* The Institute for Government event on reforming public appointments would now be held on 2 November.
* Recruitment for the independent member was progressing.

* The Chair had spoken in a personal capacity in the Lords debate on Corruption on 13 October 2022.[[2]](#footnote-1)
* The Chair had been invited to give evidence on 9 November 2022 to the Infected Blood Inquiry on the Principles of Public Life and the ‘duty of candour’.[[3]](#footnote-2)
* The Committee had been invited to host an apprentice as part of the Boardroom Apprentice Scheme which had been running in Northern Ireland and was now piloting in the UK government.[[4]](#footnote-3) Committee members welcomed the aim of the scheme which was to help those who would like to serve on a public or third sector board to learn and gain experience before taking that step. The Committee would consider an application for year 2 cohorts next year.

**4. LEADING IN PRACTICE**

Members approved the next iteration of the report and made suggestions for the final draft. Members agreed the communications plan. The report would be published in the New Year.

**5. GOVERNANCE PAPERS**

Members considered the Committee’s governance papers and agreed minor changes which had been made to reflect current practice or for reasons of clarity. The updated papers would be published on the Committee’s website.

It was also suggested and agreed that it would be good practice for members to review the Committee’s way of working and consider improvements. The Secretariat would take this forward.

**6. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

Members agreed to explore further an option for future work.

**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.

It was agreed to invite John Pullinger, Chair, Electoral Commission, and Sir Robert Chote, Chair, UK Statistics Authority, to meet the Committee for (separate) general discussions with members.

**9. AOB**

**Communications Update**

The Committee noted the communications updates for September 2022.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 24 November 2022 at 10.00.

CSPL Secretariat

October 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)
2. ([Baroness Jones of Moulescoomb: To ask His Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the effects of corruption in the United Kingdom.](https://lordsbusiness.parliament.uk/ItemOfBusiness?itemOfBusinessId=116127&sectionId=38&businessPaperDate=2022-10-13)) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. https://www.infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. https://boardroomapprentice.com [↑](#footnote-ref-3)