**CSPL (23) 51**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**315th MEETING HELD**

**AT 09.00 ON THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL, Chair

Rt Hon Lady Arden DBE

Rt Hon Ian Blackford MP (joined the meeting remotely)

Ewen Fergusson

Professor Gillian Peele (joined the meeting remotely)

Baroness Finn

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Nicola Richardson, Senior Policy Adviser

Elliot Ammar, Senior Policy Adviser

Amy Austin, Policy Adviser

Lesley Glanz, Executive Officer

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

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair welcomed Ian Blackford MP to his first Committee meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP.

**2. REGISTERS**

Members were asked to let the Secretariat know of any changes to the register of interests which had been circulated.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 were agreed.

**Chair’s update**

Members noted a number of updates including the following:

The Chair’s interview in the Times about tightening requirements to identify the true source of donations, published on 18 September.

Recruitment for the Chair and independent member.

The Chair’s valedictory speech at Institute for Government (IfG) taking place on 17 October 2023.

The Chair had met with Paul Najsarek, Interim Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman on 10 August.

Lady Arden’s project on the Principles and Codes of Conduct will be discussed at the October meeting.

The Chair had spoken at the Public Body Non Executive Board Members’ Induction event on 30 August.

Leading in Practice continues to attract wide interest. The Chair and Ewen Fergusson have a number of forthcoming speaking engagements, including speaking to a forum of New Zealand public sector CEOs on 21 September; and on 14 September Ewen Fergusson had met Carolyn Roberts, Chair of the Ethical Leadership Commission between 2017 and 2019.

*FOI requests*

Since July, the Committee received 9 requests under the FOI Act, all of which are published on the Committee’s website.

**4. LOBBYING**

The Committee discussed the lobbying seminar that would take place immediately following the Committee meeting.

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

Members noted the paper which provided an update on follow up work to the Committee’s *AI and public standard*s report, published in 2020.

It was noted that the Chair was due to meet Lord Camrose, the Minister for AI and Intellectual Property, and Henry de Zoete, Adviser to the Prime Minister on AI, on 27 September. The meeting would be an opportunity to resurface the Committee’s 2020 AI and Public Standards report; seek clarification about where responsibility lay in government for AI; and discuss the government’s forthcoming AI safety summit, planned for November.

**6. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES**

The Committee noted the media coverage of standards issues which had been circulated.

**7. FORWARD AGENDA**

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

**8. AOB**

 **Communications Update**

The Committee noted the communications updates for July and August 2023.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 19 October 2023 at 10.00.

CSPL Secretariat

September 2023

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