

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
316th MEETING HELD
AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 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 (joined the meeting remotely)
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 Officer¹

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 21 September 2023 were agreed.

Chair's update

Members noted a number of updates including the following:

The Chair's valedictory speech at the Institute for Government, held on 17 October.

Leading in Practice continues to attract wide interest. The Chair met with Fiona Ryland, Civil Service Chief People Officer, on 21 September; spoke to a

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.

forum of New Zealand public sector CEOs on 21 September; spoke at an event organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales on 18 October; and Ewen Fergusson spoke at the Protect annual conference on 5 October.

Seminar on Constitutional Watchdogs

Members noted that Professor Robert Hazell would be holding a seminar to discuss a report on ethical regulation.

The Jo Cox Foundation

Members noted that The Jo Cox Foundation had updated the Secretariat on progress with The Foundation's Civility Commission.

FOI requests

Since the September meeting, the Committee received 1 request under the FOI Act, which had been published on the Committee's website.

4. CODES OF CONDUCT PROJECT

Lady Arden introduced her paper which outlined the case for a new project on codes of conduct and the Principles. Members discussed the pros and cons of such a project, and agreed the Secretariat would take forward further work for consideration by the Committee and the new Chair later in the year.

5. LOBBYING

The Committee discussed the lobbying seminar that had taken place on 21 September.

The note of the seminar would be circulated to external participants and then published on the CSPL website, noting this was an area of interest for the Committee and noting other work that was taking place in the same space.

6. AI AND PUBLIC STANDARDS: UPDATE

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

It was noted that the Chair had met Lord Camrose, the Minister for AI and Intellectual Property, and Henry de Zoete, Adviser to the Prime Minister on AI, on 27 September.

7. GOVERNANCE PAPERS AND RISK REGISTER

The Committee reviewed and agreed some amendments to the governance papers and risk register. The papers would be revised and published on the CSPL website.

8. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES

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

9. FORWARD AGENDA

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

10. AOB

Communications Update

The Committee noted the communications updates for September 2023.

End of Chair's appointment

Members sincerely thanked Lord Evans at the end of his appointment as Chair of the Committee. Members noted Lord Evans' huge contribution to the Committee over the past five years, and the standards world more widely.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 16 November 2023 at 10.00.

CSPL Secretariat
October 2023