

Committee on Standards in Public Life Ground rules on public statements

Ground rules on public statements by Committee members

1. The Chair is the main spokesperson on Committee policy, including on potential future reviews, but other Committee members leading on a project may act as the spokesperson as agreed with the Chair. Other Committee members may sometimes be asked to undertake media interviews or make comments on behalf of the Committee. This should be done after consultation with the Press Officer.
2. Members should always liaise with the Press Officer or Secretary before speaking or being interviewed on standards issues even if those issues are not directly related to the Committee's work, and be aware of the Committee's current approach before speaking publicly or being interviewed.
3. The Committee's authority is enhanced by members speaking in public to the same general policy about Committee work; any disagreements are best discussed in Committee meetings.
4. The Secretary, or another member of the Secretariat, and the Press Officer, should be informed of any interviews members are planning to give on actual or potential Committee topics.
5. The Press Office/Secretariat will, when and where appropriate, circulate a 'line to take' to members.