

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
317th MEETING HELD
AT 11.15 ON THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023

MINUTES

Present: Ewen Fergusson (chaired the meeting)¹
Rt Hon Lady Arden DBE
Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP
Rt Hon Ian Blackford MP
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 Officer²

1. APOLOGIES

Professor Gillian Peele

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 19 October 2023 were agreed subject to one drafting amendment.

Members noted that Ewen Fergusson had spoken about *Leading in Practice* at 2 recent events: to Good Corporation, a business ethics consultancy (7 November); and to Academy Trust CEOs (16 November).

Ewen Fergusson had also attended a seminar hosted by the Electoral Commission on 31 October, to consider the possible risks to public trust presented by political campaigning. Members suggested that this was an area that should be kept under a watching brief.

Members noted Professor Robert Hazell's draft report on ethical regulation.

¹ Ewen Fergusson chaired the meeting in the absence of a formally appointed chair (Lord Evans' term of appointment finished on 31 October 2023).

² Maggie O'Boyle provides part-time press support to the Civil Service Commission, the House of Lords Appointments Commission, the Advisory Committee for Business Appointments, and the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments and the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

4. 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. Members discussed how best to engage public sector bodies in reporting on their progress against our recommendations.

5. CODES OF CONDUCT PROJECT

Members discussed the project on codes of conduct and the Principles. Members discussed different options and would consider further at the December Committee meeting.

7. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES

The Committee noted the media coverage of standards issues which had been circulated. No issues were discussed.

8. FORWARD AGENDA

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

9. AOB

Communications Update

The Committee noted the communications updates for October 2023.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14 December 2023 at 10.00 (to be confirmed).