

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
321st MEETING HELD
AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2024**

MINUTES

Present: Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE (Chair)
Rt Hon Lady Arden DBE
Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett GBE MP
Ewen Fergusson
Baroness (Simone) Finn
John Henderson CB
Professor Gillian Peele

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary
Nicola Richardson, Senior Policy Adviser
Peter Kelleher, Senior Policy Adviser
Lesley Glanz, Executive Officer
Maggie O'Boyle, Press Officer¹

The Chair welcomed John Henderson to his first meeting of the Committee.

1. APOLOGIES

Rt Hon Ian Blackford 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 22 February 2024 were agreed.

Chair's update

The Chair reported that he had continued with his schedule of introductory meetings. Since the last Committee meeting, the Chair had met with:

- Harry Rich, Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists, 27 February
- Debbie Abrahams MP, 1 March
- Professor Neil Lawrence, DeepMind Professor of Machine Learning, University of Cambridge, Senior AI Fellow, The Alan Turing Institute, 5 March
- Jennifer Nadel, Compassion in Politics, 15 March.

The Chair also reported that he had taken part in a House magazine event in the House of Lords on 18 March: 'Standards in Parliament, The Civil Service, and Public

¹ 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.

Life'. Alongside the Chair on the panel was Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston, First Civil Service Commissioner, and Daniel Greenberg CB, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. The discussion was recorded and will be released as a *PoliticsHome* podcast.

It was noted that the Chair would be attending a roundtable hosted by the Electoral Commission to consider the campaign for the general election and how to mitigate areas of risk.

Members noted that the Chair had been invited to take part in the induction programme for new MPs following the general election.

4. ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW

Members discussed and agreed the terms of reference for the Committee's new review on accountability within public bodies, and agreed the open consultation questions. The review would be launched on 25 March.

5. AI SEMINAR

Members discussed the AI seminar taking place later that day. The seminar would like to revisit some of the issues raised in the Committee's 2020 report, specifically the assurances required to enable public office holders to be comfortably accountable for advice and decisions derived from or made by AI.

6. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES

No discussion.

7. FORWARD AGENDA

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

8. AOB

Communications Update

The Committee noted the communications updates for March 2024.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 18 April 2024 at 10.00.

CSPL Secretariat
March 2024