

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
322nd MEETING HELD
AT 10.30 ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2024**

MINUTES

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

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

Darren Tierney, Director General, Propriety & Constitution Group,
Cabinet Office (outside of formal business)

The Chair welcomed Darren Tierney, Director General, Propriety & Constitution Group, Cabinet Office, who joined the meeting for an informal discussion.

Darren and Committee members discussed issues and trends in this likely general election year, including; standards in public life; the government's commitments to recommendations in CSPL's Upholding Standards in Public Life report regarding transparency, public appointments and the Business Appointment Rules²; and the Committee's accountability review.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Darren for taking the time to speak to the Committee.

1. APOLOGIES

Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett GBE MP.

Mark Philp (Chair, Research Advisory Board).

2. REGISTERS

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.

² Maggie O'Boyle declared her interest.

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 March 2024 were agreed.

Chair's update

The Chair reported that he had attended a roundtable hosted by the Electoral Commission to consider the campaign for the general election and how to mitigate areas of risk. The Secretariat would follow up with the Electoral Commission.

Members noted that a summary note of the AI seminar held on 21 March would be produced and published on the website in due course.

It was noted that there had been no FOI requests this month.

4. ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW

Members noted an update on progress on the accountability review which had been launched on 25 March.

5. ANNUAL REPORT

Members noted the outline structure for the 23/24 annual report and would consider the first draft of the annual report at the May meeting

6. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES

Members briefly discussed differing standards between the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments.

7. FORWARD AGENDA

Members noted the forward agenda.

8. AOB

Website dashboard overview

Members noted the dashboard overview for April 2024.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 16 May 2024 at 10.00.