

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
325th MEETING HELD  
AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 18 JULY 2024**

**MINUTES**

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

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary  
Nicola Richardson, Senior Policy Adviser  
Peter Kelleher, Senior Policy Adviser  
Maggie O'Boyle, Press Officer<sup>1</sup>

**1. APOLOGIES**

John Henderson CB

**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 20 June 2024 were agreed.

**Chair's update**

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair congratulated Dame Margaret Beckett on her peerage.

**MPs' induction sessions**

The Chair reported that he took part in two days of induction sessions for new MPs. The panel also included the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; IPSA; ICGS and the Electoral Commission. A further induction session was also being arranged.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

The Chair said that it was clear that intimidation of candidates had been a serious problem during the campaign period.

### **Comms and media interest**

The Chair highlighted the blog published on 8 July about setting standards, welcoming the new government's clear commitment to high standards in their election manifesto and the Prime Minister's statements, and highlighting the Principles of Public Life.

A number of media requests had been turned down during the pre- election period of sensitivity.

### **Meeting with Chairs of Independent (standards) Offices**

The Chair reported that he would be chairing one of his regular, informal meetings with the Chairs of Independent Offices on 24 July.

### **Visit by Japanese Delegation**

It was noted that Professor Gillian Peele would represent the Committee at a meeting with a delegation from Japan's House of Representatives to discuss the role and work of the Committee. The meeting was at the request of the Japanese Embassy.

## **4. ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW**

Members noted the update on the review on accountability within public bodies.

## **5. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES**

Lady Arden raised the issue of politicians gambling.<sup>2</sup> The Secretariat would prepare a note on the current state of play for information.

## **6. FORWARD AGENDA**

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

## **7. AOB**

### **Communications Update**

The Committee noted the monthly dashboard overview of CSPL's website for June 2024.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 19 September 2024 at 10.00.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx8822q2jn8o>

CSPL Secretariat  
July 2024