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**CHAIR’S UPDATE**

**Chair’s recent calls**

Monday 2 September: Baroness (Gisela) Stuart of Edgbaston, Chair, Civil Service Commission, to discuss Civil Service appointments by exception.

Thursday 12 September: Sir Laurie Magnus, Independent Adviser on Ministers’ Interests, general catch up.

**Chair’s forthcoming meetings**

15.00, Wednesday 9 October: Rt Hon Lucy Powell MP, Leader of the House of Commons, to discuss the government’s modernisation programme.

16.00, Wednesday 9 October: Evidence to the Lords Conduct Committee’s review of the Lords Code of Conduct. (Chaired by Baroness Manningham-Buller)

14.30, Thursday 17 October: Chair of National Association of Local Councils, Cllr Keith Stevens.

15.30, Monday 4 November: Dr Edge Watchorn, Director, Westminster Abbey Institute.

10.30, Friday 15 November: Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy.

12.00, Friday 15 November: Simon Madden, Director of Propriety & Ethics in Cabinet Office (first in a series of regular catch up meetings).

14.00, Thursday 19 December: Simon Madden, Director of Propriety & Ethics in Cabinet Office.

**Electoral Commission roundtable**

The Electoral Commission has invited CSPL to join what it intends to be the last in its series of roundtable discussions with regulators to consider strategic issues relating to the general election. The roundtable will be held at 14.00 on Tuesday 12 November. Ewen Fergusson will kindly represent the Committee as the Chair is not free to attend.

**Meeting of Chairs of Independent Offices**

The Chair met with the Chairs of Independent Offices on 24 July. Those present were:

Baroness Deech, Chair, HOLAC

Richard Lloyd, Chair, IPSA

Lord Eric Pickles, Chair, ACOBA

Sir Robert Chote, Chair, UK Statistics Authority

Daniel Greenberg, Commons Commissioner for Standards

Sir Laurie Magnus, Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests

Martin Jelley, Lords Standards Commissioner

Sir William Shawcross, Public Appointments Commissioner

Harry Rich, Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists

Apologies were received from:

John Pullinger, Chair, Electoral Commission

Akbar Khan, Lords Standards Commissioner (steps down as Lords Commissioner in September)

Baroness Gisela Stuart, First Civil Service Commissioner

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 29 October (TBC)..

**Visit by Japanese Delegation**

Professor Gillian Peele represented the Committee at a meeting on 2 August 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.

**FOI requests**

The Committee received one FOI request during July, asking:

* 1. What software are you currently using to facilitate BACS payments & what is the date of the renewal for this contract?
  2. How much are you paying annually for this contract, and where do you advertise for this tender?

Our reply, in which we referred the applicant to the Cabinet Office, has been published on our website.

CSPL Secretariat

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