

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
332nd MEETING HELD  
AT 13.30 ON THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2025,  
AT EMMANUEL COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

**MINUTES**

Present: Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE (Chair)  
Rt Hon Lady Arden DBE  
Councillor Ruth Dombey OBE  
Ewen Fergusson  
Baroness Finn  
John Henderson CB  
Professor Gillian Peele

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary  
Nicola Richardson, Deputy Head, Secretariat  
Amy Austin, Senior Policy Adviser  
Peter Kelleher, Senior Policy Adviser  
Lesley Glanz, Executive Officer

Maggie O'Boyle, Press Officer<sup>1</sup>

**1. APOLOGIES**

Rt Hon Baroness Beckett GBE  
Rt Hon Ian Blackford

**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 February 2025 were agreed.

**Chair's update**

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<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; the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments; and the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

The Chair reported that Baroness Finn would be resigning from the Committee with effect from 26 March, after the publication of the Committee's report, Early Warning Signs in Public Sector Bodies on 25 March. This was because of Baroness Finn's role of Opposition Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office in the House of Lords.<sup>2</sup>

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Baroness Finn for being such a key member of the Committee, all her contributions to the work of the Committee, and particularly her valuable insights into political realities.

Members noted and discussed the Chair's recent and forthcoming meetings.<sup>3</sup>

It was noted that the Committee had received 6 FOI requests over the past month. Replies have been published on the Committee's website.

#### **4. CURRENT REVIEW**

The launch of 'Recognising and Reporting to Early Warning Signs in Public Sector Bodies' would take place on Tuesday 25 March.

#### **5. 30th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE**

Professor Philp reported back on an engaging discussion with Cambridge students that morning on the Principles of Public Life. This would be repeated at Sheffield University on 21 March.

It was hoped to arrange a presentation from a researcher who was undertaking interesting work on social media and intimidation, for the September Committee meeting. It was also intended to do some work testing the underlying data of recent reports on Gen Z views on trust.

#### **6. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES**

No items were discussed.

#### **7. FORWARD AGENDA**

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

#### **8. AOB**

##### **Communications Update**

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<sup>2</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67a621f0f425d97ff6c498b3/A\\_Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67a621f0f425d97ff6c498b3/A_Code_of_Practice_final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Meetings are [published](#) in the Committee's register of stakeholder meetings.

The Committee noted the monthly dashboard overview of CSPL's website for February 2025.

The Committee noted that three blogs have been published this month: one trailing the Committee's forthcoming report on Recognising and Responding to Early Warning Signs in Public Sector Bodies; one by John Pullinger, Chair, Electoral Commission, and one by Sir Laurie Magnus, Independent Adviser on Ministerial Standards. The latter two blogs are part of a series of blogs by regulators marking the 30th anniversary of the Principles of Public Life.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 10 April 2025.

CSPL Secretariat  
March 2025