



Rt Hon. Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
HM Paymaster General
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

9 July 2025

Dear Doug,

I am writing to you regarding the future of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL).

This is a significant year for the Committee as it marks the 30th anniversary of the Nolan Principles. I want to express my gratitude for your leadership of the Committee since your appointment, and for the Committee's continued promotion of high standards across all of public life. You will have heard last month at the Institute for Government, that I paid tribute to the success of the Committee over the past 30 years.

As you will be aware, the Government is committed to establishing an Ethics and Integrity Commission to strengthen probity in public life. Our intention is that the new Commission will sit at the heart of our standards system. It will promote the Seven Principles of Public Life; ensure public bodies have suitable codes of conduct; enable the sharing of best practice across the public sector; and report to government on both the overall health of our standards system and on specific areas in need of improvement. The Government will commit to respond to all of the Commission's recommendations in a reasonable timeframe.

The Government will create the Ethics and Integrity Commission by reforming, strengthening, and re-launching the Committee on Standards in Public Life, giving the Commission a stronger mandate and an expanded role to promote, oversee, and report on the Seven Principles of Public Life. The Government's hope, through this evolution of the Committee's role, is that the Committee's work will gain a stronger and refreshed impetus in the years ahead.

I know that the Director of Propriety & Ethics is available to discuss these proposals with the Committee. Thereafter, I would be grateful if you could confirm that you agree to lead our new Ethics and Integrity Commission as its independent Chair, and that CSPL's political and independent members also agree to continue to serve on the EIC.

Pending this agreement, the Cabinet Office will work with you to finalise CSPL's transition into the Ethics and Integrity Commission. We will grant the Ethics and Integrity Commission additional responsibilities, resources, and functions to make it a strong, authoritative, and ambitious public body. I am confident that the EIC will be able to drive up ethical standards across the public sector as it takes a leading role in ensuring the Seven Principles lie at the heart of every public sector organisation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N. Thomas-Symonds', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

**RT HON NICK THOMAS-SYMONDS MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HIS MAJESTY'S PAYMASTER GENERAL**