

Committee on Standards in Public Life
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Rt Hon. Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
HM Paymaster General

By email

**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

15 July 2025

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter regarding the future of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) and your proposal for the Ethics and Integrity Commission (EIC).

We are pleased that our work over the last 30 years has been recognised and that you want to retain and build on this model. It is clear that the evolution of the Committee into an Ethics and Integrity Commission represents a significant addition to our current responsibilities. We note your ambition for the Commission to have a stronger mandate to promote and oversee standards while remaining as a non-statutory advisory body. We will therefore continue to develop and rely on our strong working relationships with other standards bodies and regulators to fulfil this important role at the heart of the standards system.

We understand that you intend the EIC to come into being from October. I look forward to discussing with Cabinet Office officials both the Terms of Reference for the Commission and the resources that will be necessary to move towards the ambitions set out in your letter. Once the additional resources are in place, we would be able to begin some of the work strands later this year. Other responsibilities will inevitably take time to design and implement, such as the codes of conduct work.

I welcome the commitment made in your letter to respond to all of the EIC's recommendations within a reasonable timeframe. This will be particularly important in relation to the Commission's annual report on the standards landscape as we will need to reflect on the government's response in order to be able to report to the Prime Minister the following year.

Subject to agreement on the Terms of Reference and associated resources, I can confirm that I would be pleased to chair the Ethics and Integrity Commission. I have spoken to the current independent and political members who, again subject to agreed Terms of Reference, would also be happy to serve on the EIC. You will be aware that we are currently carrying independent and political member vacancies and it will be vital to fill these posts as a priority.

Finally, I welcome the engagement that we have had so far and look forward to further discussions as we develop and enhance the Commission's stewardship role in promoting high standards in public life.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Doug Chalmers', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

Honesty | Objectivity | Openness | Selflessness | Integrity | Accountability | Leadership