

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
337th MEETING HELD  
AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 17 JULY 2025**

**MINUTES**

Present: Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE (Chair)  
Rt Hon Lady Arden DBE  
Rt Hon Baroness Beckett GBE  
Rt Hon Ian Blackford  
Councillor Ruth Dombey OBE  
Ewen Fergusson  
Professor Gillian Peele.

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary  
Nicola Richardson, Deputy Head, Secretariat

Peter Kelleher, Senior Policy Adviser  
Lesley Glanz, Executive Assistant

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

Simon Madden, Director, Propriety & Ethics, Cabinet Office, attended before the start of formal business to discuss the government's plans for the Ethics and Integrity Commission.

**1. APOLOGIES AND RESIGNATION**

John Henderson CB.

The Chair reported that John Henderson had resigned from the Committee with effect from 1 September 2025. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked John for his insights he brought to the work of the Committee during the period of his term of appointment.

**2. REGISTERS**

Members were asked to let the Secretariat know of any changes to the register of interests which had been circulated.

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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.

### **3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2025 were agreed.

#### **Chair's update**

Members noted and discussed recent and forthcoming meetings.<sup>2</sup>

### **4. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

Members considered and refined options for the Committee's next review. It was noted that in view of the government's plans for the Ethics and Integrity Commission, the Committee would need to ensure it had adequate resources in place to continue to meet its current remit of undertaking independent reviews while fulfilling its new responsibilities.

### **5. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES**

Members discussed two issues in the media: criticism of the Office for National Statistics, and the Afghan data breach.<sup>3 4</sup>

### **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 2025.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 18 September 2025.

CSPL Secretariat  
July 2025

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<sup>2</sup> Meetings are [published](#) in the Committee's register of stakeholder meetings.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckg3zxyj5l2o>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c79qyl907lxo>