

OFFICIAL

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY THIRD MEETING
THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2015 AT 10:00AM**

**GC05.1
1 HORSE GUARDS ROAD
LONDON SW1A 2HQ**

MINUTE

Present: Lord Bew, Chairman
Richard Thomas CBE
Patricia Moberly
Sheila Drew Smith OBE

Secretariat: Ruth Thompson, Secretary
Isobel Croot, Senior Policy Adviser
James Anderson, Secretariat Coordinator
Maggie O'Boyle, Press Officer

Apologies: Dame Angela Watkinson MP
Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP
Lord Alderdice
Carolyn Fairbairn
David Prince CBE
Laurie Mousah, Policy Adviser

1. Registers

The Committee reviewed and updated the register of interests, and the registers of external meetings, gifts and hospitality were approved.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the March meeting. The Chair updated the Committee on his recent discussion about party funding with former Chair Sir Christopher Kelly. The Secretariat notified the Committee of an upcoming meeting with the Chair of SOLACE to discuss the code of conduct which they are currently drafting. The Committee discussed the tone and content of the Political Quarterly article which continues to be drafted. The Chair also discussed his upcoming ethical induction seminar for new members of the House of Commons.

3. Local policing inquiry – Update

The Chair thanked the members of the Committee and the Secretariat for their ongoing work for the policing inquiry. The Committee members were updated on recent meetings with the Independent Police Complaints Commission and the Chair of the Police Superintendents Association of England and Wales. The Committee discussed the optimal timing and format

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of the publication of the final report and the effect that the outcome of the upcoming General Election might have on its reception. The Committee agreed that a panel event should be held for the launch of the report.

4. Local policing inquiry – draft report

The Committee considered the draft report submitted to them by the Secretariat, discussing the style, assertiveness and language of the draft and its balance of principles and detail. The Committee agreed to the recommendations set out in the draft report. The Secretariat agreed to write a new draft for the next subcommittee meeting on 6 May.

5. Annual Report 2015

The Committee were invited to comment on the note on the report of the Annual Report for 2015 and on the draft skeleton. They discussed the themes and content that should be included in the Annual Report. The Secretariat agreed to circulate an updated draft for the May meeting.

6. Standards Check

The Committee were updated on recent standards issues including, amongst others, reports by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee and Public Accounts Committee's outlining their work since 2010, reports published by the ICO and IfG aimed at increasing transparency in public service contracts, research by Oxford University around the 'market for peerages' and newly published guidance from BIS on whistleblowing.

7. AOB

The Committee were updated on a recent meeting with CIRCO held in relation to the follow-up report to *Ethical standards for providers of public services*. The Chair notified the Committee of the letter he received from Francis Maude, inviting the Committee to contribute to the review of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments and an upcoming meeting with Sir David Normington to discuss it. The Committee agreed to respond to the review.

Next meeting: The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 21 May at 10:00 am at 1 Horse Guards Road.