**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY SIXTH MEETING**

**THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 10:00AM**

**ROOM GC05.1, 1 HORSE GUARDS ROAD,**

**LONDON, SW1A 2HQ**

**MINUTE**

Present: Lord Bew, Chairman

Richard Thomas CBE

Patricia Moberly

Sheila Drew Smith OBE

Dame Angela Watkinson MP

Lord Alderdice

Secretariat: Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

 Isobel Croot, Senior Policy Adviser

 Paul Croney, Secretariat Coordinator

Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer

Apologies: Carolyn Fairbairn

 Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

1. **Registers**

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

1. **Minutes and matters arising**

The Committee approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 July 2015.

1. **Ethical standards for providers of public services**

The Committee discussed the follow up publication to the Ethical Standards for Providers of Public Services report.

The Committee recommended some revisions to be considered at the October meeting.

1. **Ethics for regulators**

The Ethics for Regulators issues paper was discussed. The paper set out key issues for the review’s forward work programme.

The intention is to refine and narrow the paper, including a summary of the responses from the survey on regulators, then to circulate the paper as a consultation document to regulators and other interested parties.

1. **Policing report**

The Committee was invited to note a brief update on the policing report.

It was agreed to summarise the letters of response to the report at the end of November, with a view to placing them on the Committee’s website, subject to obtaining the permission of the respondents.

1. **Public Appointments**

A Review of the role of the Commissioner of Public Appointments was recently announced by the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

The review was being led by Sir Gerry Grimstone, who was welcomed to the Committee meeting. Sir Gerry outlined the review’s terms of reference, progress to-date and said he was interested to hear the Committee’s views on key issues relating to the review.

The discussion at the meeting highlighted issues such as the efficiency of the process; the length of time recruitment can take; the advertising process; pre-appointment scrutiny; ministerial involvement and the need for greater diversity.

The Committee thanked Sir Gerry for his presentation and invited him to return in November with the review’s outline findings.

The Committee was then joined by Dr Felicity Matthews, Senior Lecturer in Governance and Public Policy at the University of Sheffield. Dr Matthews presented her findings to the Committee on the public appointment process., with a particular focus on pre-appointment scrutiny. The Committee thanked Dr Matthews for her presentation which, it was noted, would be very helpful in aiding the Committee’s response to the Review.

1. **Research Advisory Board**

Mark Philp presented his discussion paper on options for further research. The paper looked at a number of areas that might be researched further. It was noted that the Committee’s questions for the British Election Survey would need to be drafted and agreed by January 2016.

1. **Standards check**

The standards check was noted.

1. **Forward Agenda**

No discussion items were added to the forward agenda.

1. **AOB**

To mark the 20th anniversary of the first report of the Nolan Committee, Lord Bew suggested the Committee might invite the Prime Minister to a reception to be arranged on a Wednesday following PMQs. The Committee welcomed this suggestion.

CSPL Secretariat

September 2015