**CSPL (16) 29**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD MEETING**

**THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2016 AT 10:00AM**

**ROOM G11, 1 HORSE GUARDS ROAD,** **LONDON, SW1A 2HQ**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Bew, Chairman

Lord Alderdice

Sheila Drew Smith OBE

Patricia Moberly

Monisha Shah

Richard Thomas CBE

Dame Angela Watkinson DBE MP

Secretariat: Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Renny Mendoza, Senior Policy Advisor

Dee Goddard, Senior Policy Advisor, Intern

Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer

Apologies: Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Paul Croney, Governance and Communications Co-ordinator

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 meeting held on 17 March 2016.

The Committee noted the appointment of the Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE as Commissioner for Public Appointments (CPA). It was agreed the Chair should meet with the new CPA soon after he had taken up office and to pursue with the Cabinet Office the possibility of reviewing the CPA Governance Code in draft.

The Committee noted the good progress on promoting the PCC ethical checklist to PCC candidates; to date 45% of the candidates had signed up to the checklist. The Committee reiterated its thanks to Richard Thomas for the idea. It was agreed to follow up the checklist with Police and Crime Panels following the local elections on 5 May.

It was also agreed to arrange a meeting with Nazir Afzal OBE, following his recent appointment as Chief Executive of the APCC.

1. **Ethics for Regulators Review**

Richard Thomas updated the Committee on progress on the Ethics for Regulators Review and thanked Dee Goddard for all her work to date on the report which was much appreciated. A sub-committee had met on 14 April to discuss drafting and the structure of the report which was based around the 7 principles of public life. The sub-committee would meet again on 12 May.

It was agreed to aim for publication in the period 5 - 14 September 2016, when Parliament would return for a two week sitting.

1. **Budget**

The Committee noted the budget allocation for 2016-17. Further bids would be made to Cabinet Office for research as required. It was noted the T&S expenditure was currently moderated by most of the committee members living in London; T&S expenses could well rise if new committee members had further to travel to attend meetings.

1. **Research Proposal on Party Finance**

The Committee approved the proposal to ask Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky to up date to his 2011 research paper on party finance. This was subject to clarifying the remit with Dr Pinto-Duschinsky, in particular around definitions of the ‘largest’ political parties.

**6. Annual Report 2015-16**

The draft outline Annual Report was noted.

**7. Horizon Scanning**

The Committee discussed the Horizon Scanning paper and commented on areas of work that might form the focus of the Committee’s next review. It was agreed it would be sensible to scope work on devolution/institution of mayors, tsars in government and also on ‘conflict of interest’, to look at how this issue is handled across the piece.

**8. Standards Check**

The Committee noted the Standards Check.

**9. Forward Agenda**

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

**10. AOB**

Lord Bew reported that Patricia Moberly would be standing down from the Committee in September 2016. Patricia had kindly offered her resignation earlier than was due in order to avoid losing 3 members of the Committee at the same time and to allow a sensible programme of induction for new Committee members. The Committee were saddened to hear that Patricia would be leaving the Committee and sincerely thanked Patricia for all her work and support. The recruitment process would be discussed at the next meeting.

The Committee noted that the anti-corruption seminar arranged by No 10 was due to take place on 12 May.

Sheila Drew Smith reported that the recruitment process for four new lay members of the House of Commons Committee on Standards was now concluded. The nomination of the four candidates would be reported by the House of Commons Commission for the names to be agreed by the House.

**Date of next meeting**: Thursday 19 May 2016. It was noted that Sheila Drew Smith and Angela Watkinson had already given their apologies for this meeting.

**CSPL Secretariat**

**April 2016**