**CSPL (16) 40**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD MEETING**

**THURSDAY 19 MAY 2016 AT 10:00AM**

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

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Bew, Chair

Lord Alderdice

Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Patricia Moberly

Monisha Shah

Richard Thomas CBE

Secretariat: Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Renny Mendoza, Senior Policy Advisor

Dee Goddard, Senior Policy Advisor, Intern

Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer

Paul Croney, Governance and Communications Co-ordinator

Apologies: Sheila Drew Smith OBE

Dame Angela Watkinson DBE MP

1. **Registers**

The Committee reviewed and updated the register of interests, and the registers of external meetings, gifts and hospitality. The register’s new format prompted members to suggest that there should be formal advice for new members on what should and should not be listed. This was noted and agreed.

1. **Minutes and matters arising**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2016.

*Police and Crime Commissioners*

The Committee noted the take-up of the PCC checklist following the elections held on 5 May 2016. 21 of the 40 (52.5%) elected PCCs had signed the checklist. The Committee agreed the follow-up letter to be sent to Police and Crime Panels encouraging Panels to use their scrutiny and support role to explore important standards issues with their PCC. It was also agreed to write to all elected PCCs, either to ask them to sign up if they have not yet done so or to remind them of their pledge if they had already signed.

It was noted a meeting had been arranged for 15 June between Lord Bew, Patricia Moberly and Richard Thomas, and the new CEO of the APCC, Mr Nazir Afzal OBE.

The Committee noted the Chair will be a keynote speaker at the Police and Ethics conference to be held on 14 June at Bath Spa University.

*Commissioner for Public Appointments*

It was noted that Peter Riddell had now taken up the appointment of Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Chair would meet Peter following this meeting, to welcome Peter on his appointment and for a general introductory discussion. It was noted that the Governance Code for Public Appointments had not yet been promulgated. It was agreed the Secretariat should write and ask the Cabinet Office about the planned arrangements for consultation on the new Code.

1. **CSPL Vacancy**

The Committee noted the job vacancy went live on 6 May and has, so far, generated 42 applications.

1. **Ethics for regulators**

Richard Thomas reported that the review is progressing well; a sub-committee of members met on 12 May, and will do so again on 15 June. Attention was drawn to the three notes of meetings with the Charities Commission, Ofgen and the FCA. A meeting with Hertfordshire County Council was planned for June.

A complete draft of the report will be reviewed at the June Committee meeting.

**5. Annual Report 2015-2016**

The current draft of the Annual Report was noted. A final draft would be presented at the June Committee meeting.

**6. 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.

**7. CSPL Code of Practice**

The Chair reported that the Committee is required to update its Code of Practice at least once under the tenure of each chair. Members’ comments were invited with a view to publishing a new version in September 2016.

**8. Standards Check**

The Committee noted the Standards Check.

**9. Forward Agenda**

The Committee noted the forward agenda.

**10. AOB**

The Committee discussed Alan Doig’s posts about the Committee on DemocraticAudit.com. The Chair’s draft response was approved by the Committee, adding that it would be useful to list some recent Committee reports and quote the triennial review.

The Committee noted that IPSA has launched a consultation on the MPs’ scheme of business costs and expenses. The Committee would wish to contribute.

The Committee discussed an article written by Michael Pinto-Duschinsky on the EU Referendum for the forthcoming ‘Standpoint’ publication, setting out concerns that both the leave and remain camps may not be campaigning within the rules.

The Chair reported that he had received the Chinese delegation from the PM’s anti-corruption conference on 12 May. A successful meeting was followed by dinner in the House of Lords hosted by Lord Powell on behalf of the Great Britain China Centre.

The Committee approved Richard Thomas’s suggestion that selected speakers might be invited to attend the committee meetings on occasion, to discuss areas of interest.

**Date of next meeting**: Thursday 9 June 2016.

**CSPL Secretariat**

**May 2016**