

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING  
THURSDAY 21 JULY 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  
Sheila Drew Smith OBE  
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: Dame Angela Watkinson DBE MP  
Patricia Moberly

**1. Registers**

The Committee reviewed the register of interests, and the registers of external meetings, gifts and hospitality. It was noted that the register of interests would be updated to note that Sheila Drew Smith was no longer a member of the Bar Standards Board Appointments Panel.

**2. Minutes and matters arising**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2016.

It was noted the new Minister for the Cabinet Office following the ministerial reshuffle was the Rt Hon Ben Gummer MP.

*Meeting with Chief Executive of Association of Police and Crime Commissioners*

The Committee noted a positive and successful meeting between Patricia Moberly and Richard Thomas held on 15 June with the new CEO of the APCC, Mr Nazir Afzal OBE. The meeting was held to follow up the Committee's 2014

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report on policing , *Tone from the Top*. Mr Afzal agreed to take a fresh look at the report's recommendations and it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged between the Chair and the new APCC Chair for the late autumn.

### *Commissioner for Public Appointments*

The Committee noted that the then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Matt Hancock) had replied to the Chair's letter and confirmed that there would be no consultation of the new public appointments Governance Code, but that he would welcome the Committee's view once the Code had been published.

It was also noted that the new Order-in-Council had now been published but would not come into force until a date to be determined by the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

### *Annual Report 2015-2016*

The current draft of the Annual Report was noted. It was agreed to publish the Annual Report in autumn 2016. The paragraph on forward work would be circulated to Committee members for approval and a final version of the full report would be circulated to Committee members before publication.

## **3. CSPL Vacancy**

The Chair reported that two candidates had been identified and approved by Prime Minister. Thanks were due to the Cabinet Office Appointments Team for expediting the approval process. It was noted that the intention was that one candidate would start in September 2016, and one candidate in the January 2017.

## **4. Ethics for regulators**

Richard Thomas reported that the report was nearing completion. A useful meeting had been held with the General Medical Council on 19 July, the last of the interviews with regulators. Some further detailed drafting was required, but nothing that would change the message or tone of the report. Committee members were asked to let the Secretariat have any final comments on the draft by 27 July 2016.

The Chair thanked Richard Thomas for leading the report and Dee Goddard for her invaluable work drafting the report. The launch of the report was scheduled for 13 September 2016.

## **5. Party Political Funding**

Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky presented his papers on party political finance, which updated his paper of 2011, and on ideas for smaller party funding reform. The papers had been commissioned by the Committee following the commitment given to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Trade Union Bill in February 2016 to update earlier work.

The Committee thanked Dr Pinto-Duschinsky for his detailed and thorough work. It was agreed to publish Dr Pinto-Duschinsky's update on party political finance once the Committee had had time to review the paper. Comments from the Committee members were requested by Monday 25 July 2016. The Committee would revert to discussion of options for reform to party funding later in the year.

## **6. Referendum**

The Committee received a presentation by Dr Alan Renwick of the Constitution Unit, UCL on the EU referendum. The presentation focused on key issues that had been raised to do with misinformation in the course of the campaign and the imbalance in resources for each side; then how these related to the work of the Committee and what might be done to address these concerns. It was noted that the Constitution Unit was considering holding an inquiry into the operation of referenda subject to securing funds.

The Committee thanked Dr Renwick for an informed presentation which brought clarity to the discussion. It was agreed that it was an area on which the Committee should focus some work. It was agreed to seek ways in which the Committee might work with the Constitution Unit. The Secretariat would pursue this idea with Dr Renwick.

The Committee noted that the Public Administration Constitutional Affairs Committee was holding an inquiry into lessons learned from the referendum, the deadline for contributions was 5 September 2016. It was agreed to write to the Chair of PACAC explaining the Committee's plans to take forward work with the Constitution Unit.

## **8. Standards Check**

The Committee noted the Standards Check.

## **9. Forward Agenda**

The Committee noted the forward agenda. The Committee agreed that the next work for the Committee should include some review of the referendum and a review of local government standards. The Committee would also follow up with government departments the Committee's 2015 guidance: *Ethical Standards for Public Service Providers*.

## **10. AOB**

The Committee noted that it was the last meeting for Committee members Lord Alderdice and Patricia Moberly, and policy advisor, Dee Goddard. Dee was returning to her academic work after 6 months with the Committee but had made a huge impact in such a short time for which the Committee was very grateful. Lord Alderdice had come to the end of his second three year term and Patricia Moberly was stepping down early ahead of her five year term

finishing in April 2017 in order to help with succession planning. The Committee sincerely thanked John and Patricia for their invaluable work, insightful contributions and for all the time they had given so generously to the committee. It had been a privilege and a pleasure to have them both as Committee members and they would be sorely missed.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 15 September 2016.

**CSPL Secretariat  
July 2016**