**CSPL (17) 2**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND FORTIETH MEETING**

**THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2016 AT 10:00**

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

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Bew, Chair

Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Sheila Drew Smith OBE

Jane Ramsey

Monisha Shah

Lord Stunell OBE

Richard Thomas CBE

Secretariat: Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Renny Mendoza, Senior Policy Advisor

Paul Croney, Governance and Communications Co-ordinator

Apologies: Dame Angela Watkinson DBE MP *(on leave of absence)*

Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer

The Committee welcomed Lord Stunell to his first meeting as the Liberal Democrat member of the Committee, replacing Lord Alderdice.

**1. Registers**

The Committee reviewed the register of interests, and the registers of external meetings, gifts and hospitality. It was noted that Sheila Drew Smith had been appointed Chair of the Fair Fees Forum.

**2. Minutes and matters arising**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2016.

*Informal meeting with Chair of PACAC*

It was noted that the Chair had had an informal catch up meeting with Bernard Jenkin MP, the Chair of PACAC. Among the items discussed was PACAC’s current inquiry into the House of Lords; Mr Jenkin confirmed that he would not be calling CSPL to give evidence.

*Public Appointments Governance Code*

The Chair reported that the new Public Appointments Governance Code would be announced by Written Ministerial Statement on 16 December. It was agreed to invite the Public Appointments Commissioner to attend a Committee meeting in the Spring to discuss the impact of the new Code.

**3. Referendum Seminar**

The Committee noted the review of the Referendum seminar held on 22 November. It was agreed that the Secretariat should draft a report of the seminar, a short working paper setting out key themes and issues raised at the seminar.

**4. Ethical Standards for Public Service Providers**

The follow up plan to Ethical Standards for Public Service Providers was agreed. The objective would be threefold: to assess what action has been taken by commissioners and providers since the 2014 report; to highlight that the remit of the Committee extends to those providing public service; and to lead into future work on Local Government standards.

**5**. **PACAC’S Inquiry into the House of Lords**

The Committee agreed the draft submission into the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee’s inquiry into the House of Lords, subject to some drafting amendments.

**6. Research Advisory Board (RAB)**

The Committee noted that the Research Advisory Board had met on 9 December to discuss support to the Committee’s forthcoming work programme. The RAB planned to meet again on 3 February 2017.

**7. House of Commons Committee on Standards**

The Committee noted the invitation from the Committee on Standards to meet on 31 January 2017. It was suggested that the agenda should include discussion of the impact of the additional lay members (to equal political members). It was noted that Kathryn Hudson, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, would also attend the meeting.

**8. Financial Planning Round**

The Committee noted the bid for the next planning round. The Committee suggested that the Chair should meet with John Manzoni to explain the vulnerability of the Committee if it continued to work at such a low level of resource.

The February Committee meeting would be an opportunity to take a strategic view and prioritise the Committee’s output going forward.

**9. Standards Check**

The Committee noted the standards check, in particular Dame Louise Casey’s recommendation that ‘British Values’ might be incorporated into the Seven Principles of Public Life. The Secretariat would invite Dame Louise to attend a Committee meeting early in 2017.

**11. Forward work programme and forward grid**

The Committee noted the forward work programme and forward grid. It was agreed to move the February meeting so it did not fall during Parliamentary recess.

**12. AOB**

The Committee noted the communications update.

**Date of next meeting**: Thursday 19 January 2017 at 10:00.

The Chair thanked Paul Croney who was leaving the Secretariat for a new post, for all his work and support to the Committee over the past 18 months.

**CSPL Secretariat**

**December 2016**