**CSPL (17) 76**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING**

**THURSDAY 20 JULY 2017 AT 10:00**

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

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Bew, Chair

Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Dr Jane Martin CBE

Jane Ramsey *(by telephone)*

Lord Stunell OBE

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

Ally Foat, Senior Policy Advisor

Dee Goddard, Senior Policy Advisor

Stuart Ramsay, Senior Policy Advisor

Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer

Mowmita Basak Mow, Intern from the Blavatnik School of Government, *observing*

Apologies: Sheila Drew Smith OBE

Monisha Shah

**1. REGISTERS**

Jane Martin reported one change to the register of interests which was noted. The register would be updated and published on the website.

**2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017 were agreed.

**Matters arising:**

**UKSA Consultation on Code of Practice**

It was noted that Jane Ramsey and two Secretariat members had attended the UKSA’s launch of their revised Code of Practice, held on 5 July. Committee members noted a paper outlining the key provisions of the Code and the draft themes for the Committee’s proposed response to the consultation. The Committee recommended that particular attention was paid to the issue of conflicts of interest in the Committee’s response.

**Government’s ‘confidence and supply’ agreement with the DUP**

The Committee agreed not to pursue the suggestion that the Committee might review the Government’s ‘confidence and supply’ agreement. The Committee does not review individual cases. Should the Committee wish to examine the issue, it would need to consider past agreements and arrangements which was a constitutional matter and may go beyond the Committee’s remit.

**Meeting with GRECO**

The Chair reported a constructive meeting held on 28 June with GRECO, the Council of Europe’s anti-corruption evaluation team. The meeting was held at GRECO’s request during their visit to the UK as part of GRECO’s 5th evaluation round.

**Meeting with Stephen Kinnock MP**

The Chair reported that he had met with Stephen Kinnock MP and the Electoral Commission on 13 July. The meeting was at Mr Kinnock’s request to discuss party campaigning expenditure, in particular the use of third parties and social media. The meeting been rearranged following the General Election.

**3. REVIEW INTO THE INTIMIDATION OF PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES**

Subject to some detailed suggestions, the Committee noted and approved the paper setting out fuller terms of reference, themes that the report might cover and the proposed methodology. It was agreed that the Chair should be the lead Committee member for this report, with Jane Ramsey in support. It was also agreed to commission Professor Mark Philp to contribute to the report.

**4. STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT: FOLLOW UP**

Committee members agreed that the horizon scanning seminar held on 10 July to coincide with the launch of the Annual Report had been a successful and worthwhile event. It was agreed it was important to stay in touch and follow up ideas and to build on the clear appetite for working collaboratively with other individuals and organisations where we could do so.

**5. REVIEW OF MPs’ OUTSIDE INTERESTS**

The Committee noted the consultation had been reopened following the general election. It was agreed the timetable for the publication of this report should be revised to take into account the new priority of reviewing the intimidation of Parliamentary candidates.

**6. ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS: FOLLOW UP**

The Committee noted the short update on the follow up work to ethical standards for public service providers. A meeting with the National Audit Office was still to be arranged.

**7. METRO MAYORS’ INDUCTION**

The Committee noted the plan for the proposed event with new metro mayors to be held on 19 October. To date, 3 mayors had accepted the invitation to attend the induction event (Cambridgeshire, Liverpool and West of England); the Mayor for the Tees Valley had declined; the Mayors for Manchester and West Midlands were still to reply. Jane Martin was the lead Committee member for this event.

**8. CONDUCT OF REFERENDUMS**

The Committee noted the intention of the Electoral Commission to bring the meetings they had been hosting on the conduct of referendums to a close. The Electoral Commission proposed wrapping up the meetings with a letter to the Minister for the Constitution outlining the discussions held. It was noted that the Committee would have the opportunity to comment on the draft letter before it was sent.

**9. STANDARDS CHECK**

The Committee noted the Standards Check.

**10. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD GRID**

The Committee noted the forward agenda and forward look of key events, including proposed meeting dates for 2018.

It was noted that the lay ex-members of the Commons Standards Committee would attend the September meeting; and that Will Moy, Director of Full Fact, would attend the October meeting.

**11. AOB**

The Committee noted the Communications Update.

The Committee thanked Khadija Haji-Aden, the Secretariat’s temporary member of staff, for all her hard work and enthusiasm for the Committee during the past three months.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 21 September 2017**

**TBC**

**CSPL Secretariat**

**July 2017**