**CSPL (17) 98**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 13:00**

**IN ROOM GC05.1, I HORSEGUARDS ROAD**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Bew, Chair

 Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Sheila Drew Smith OBE

Simon Hart (part)

Dr Jane Martin CBE (by telephone)

Jane Ramsey

Rt Hon 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

Apologies: Monisha Shah

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

Detailed suggestions regarding the tone, emphasis and wording of the draft report were noted. Cross-reference to the current news stories of harassment in Westminster would need to be added to the report.

The Secretariat would provide a revised draft for the Committee’s meeting to be held on Thursday 16 November.

**2. WESTMINSTER HARASSMENT**

*Subsequently added to the agenda following the breaking news about a culture of harassment and bullying at Westminster.*

Simon Hart left the meeting to avoid any conflict of interest with his membership of the Commons Committee on Standards.

 The Committee noted with concern the recent news breaking about harassment and abuse in the Westminster Parliament. It was clear that urgent investigation into allegations of unacceptable conduct was needed. The Committee noted that the political parties were working on this and confirmed it would watch developments with interest, retaining the right to revisit these issues once the parties’ proposals were clear. It would revisit the issues at the next meeting on 16 November and consider what further action it would be appropriate for the Committee to take in the light of developments.

**3. AOB**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday 16 November 2017 at 10.00, to be held in 70 Whitehall.**