**CSPL (18) 01**

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

**TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST MEETING**

**HELD AT 10.00 ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017 IN**

**70 WHITEHALL,** **LONDON, SW1A 2AS**

**MINUTES**

Present: Lord Bew, Chair

 Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP

Simon Hart MP

Dr Jane Martin CBE

Jane Ramsey

Monisha Shah

Rt Hon Lord Stunell OBE

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board

 Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary

 Ally Foat, Senior Policy Advisor

 Dee Goddard, Senior Policy Advisor

Stuart Ramsay, Senior Policy Advisor

 Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer (from item 4)

Apologies: Sheila Drew Smith OBE

**1. REGISTERS**

There were no changes to the register of interests.

**2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017 were agreed.

**Matters arising:**

**Meeting with Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC)**

It was noted that the Chair and Sheila Drew Smith had attended a meeting with the Chair of PACAC to discuss the Business Appointment Rules. PACAC was still awaiting the Government’s response to its report published in April 2017.

It was agreed to discuss the Business Appointment Rules and their operation further at the February meeting.

**Westminster Harassment**

Lord Bew reported his attendance at a meeting of the Parliamentary joint working group on harassment which was held on 28 November. The Committee looked forward to reading the group’s reports when they emerged, and the proposed way forward. The Committee would maintain an active watching brief and revert to a substantive discussion of this issue at the February meeting.

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

Lord Bew thanked all those present for their contributions to a successful launch of a substantial, well-received report. Particular thanks were due to Jane Ramsey; Dee Goddard and Stuart Ramsay, the Secretariat Senior Policy Advisors, and Maggie O’Boyle, Press Officer.

 It was agreed it was important to follow up the recommendations in the report. The Secretariat would prepare a paper setting out lessons learnt and options for follow-up for discussion at the January Committee meeting.

**4. FOLLOW UP TO ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Discussion of the draft follow-up report to ethical standards for public service providers was deferred until the January meeting.

**5. REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Committee discussed the draft terms of reference for the forthcoming local government review. The terms of reference were agreed subject to some revisions requested by the Committee. The aim was still to publish a public consultation on the review by early February 2018.

**6. MPs’ OUTSIDE INTERESTS**

The revised timetable for the review of MPs’ outside interests was agreed. It was intended to hold a roundtable/seminar in early March and publish in June 2018. There was no discussion of the substantive review.

**7. STANDARDS CHECK**

The Committee noted the standards check.

**8. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD GRID**

The Committee noted the forward agenda and forward look of key events.

**9. AOB**

The Committee noted the Communications Update.

**Committee membership**

The Committee noted that the advert for membership of the Committee had now closed. It was intended to interview sifted candidates in the new year.

It was also noted that the Chair’s term of appointment would come to an end on 31 August 2018. The process for his re-appointment would start in the new year.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**Thursday 18 January 2018 to be held in Conference Room E, 70 Whitehall.**

**CSPL Secretariat**

**December 2017**