

**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE  
338th MEETING HELD  
AT 09.00 ON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**MINUTES**

Present: Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE (Chair)  
Rt Hon Lady Arden DBE  
Rt Hon Baroness Beckett GBE  
Rt Hon Ian Blackford  
Councillor Ruth Dombey OBE  
Ewen Fergusson  
Professor Gillian Peele.

Professor Mark Philp, Chair, Research Advisory Board

Lesley Bainsfair, Secretary  
Nicola Richardson, Deputy Head, Secretariat  
Amy Austin, Policy Adviser  
Lesley Glanz, Executive Assistant

Maggie O'Boyle, Press Officer<sup>1</sup>

Simon Madden, Director, Propriety & Ethics, Cabinet Office, attended to discuss the CSPL becoming the Ethics and Integrity Commission (EIC) on 13 October.

**1. APOLOGIES**

None.

**2. REGISTERS**

Members were asked to let the Secretariat know of any changes to the register of interests which had been circulated.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 and 17 July 2025 were agreed.

**4. ETHICS AND INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

---

<sup>1</sup> Maggie O'Boyle provides part-time press support to the Civil Service Commission; the House of Lords Appointments Commission; the Advisory Committee for Business Appointments; the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments; and the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Members discussed the Commission's draft terms of reference, responsibilities, proposed membership, staffing, branding, and website.

Members highlighted the need to manage the public's and stakeholders' expectations when the EIC was launched on 13 October. Whilst, internally, it was recognised that it would take time for the EIC to evolve from the CSPL and to address and develop its new responsibilities, setting out ambitious terms of reference without commensurate capacity in membership and staffing could raise expectations unrealistically.

Specific comments were noted on the draft terms of reference which the secretariat would feed back to the Cabinet Office.

The Committee thanked Simon Madden for taking time to attend the meeting; Simon left the meeting.

## **5. GOVERNANCE**

The Committee approved the code of conduct and accompanying guidance and protocols for the EIC. Members noted the risk register and suggested some additions which would be added to the register.

## **6. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES**

Members discussed standards issues that had recently been covered by the media and the changing role of standards bodies over the years.

## **7. AOB**

### **FOI requests**

Members noted that the Committee received five FOI requests over the past month. All replies would be published on the website.

### **Communications Update**

The Committee noted the monthly dashboard overviews of CSPL's website for July and August 2025.

### **Future meeting schedule**

Members noted the future meeting schedule for the EIC.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The first meeting of the EIC will be held on Thursday 16 October 2025.

CSPL Secretariat  
September 2025