

ETHICS & INTEGRITY Commission

MINUTES: MONTHLY COMMISSION MEETING

14:00 - 16:00, 21 MAY 2026

ATTENDEES

Members

1. Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE (Chair)
2. The Rt Hon Lady Arden of Heswall DBE
3. Councillor Ruth Dombey OBE
4. Ewen Fergusson

EIC Officials

5. Stuart Sterling OBE, Chief Executive
6. Nicola Iles MBE, Chief of Staff
7. Natasha Seward, Head of Reviews
8. Sarah Yarwood, Head of Public Engagement
9. Nicola Richardson, Senior Policy Adviser
10. Joseph Rice, Policy Adviser
11. Peter Kelleher, Head of Corporate Support

External Advisers

12. Professor Mark Philp, Senior Academic Adviser

1. APOLOGIES

Ian Blackford, Michael Tomlinson, Gillian Peele.

2. REGISTERS

The Chair noted that the Corporate Support Team had circulated the Register of Interests to Members prior to the Commission meeting and invited Members to provide any updates as relevant. No updates had been received.

The Chair invited Members, and those providing external advice in the areas of media and academia, to declare any additional interests relevant to the agenda. No additional interests were declared.

3. MINUTES

No observations on the minutes of the last meeting.



4. CHAIRS INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND UPDATE

The Chair set out the themes for the meeting and provided a short update on recent and forthcoming engagements.

5. CEO's UPDATE

The CEO gave a short update on staffing matters.

6. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The Chair and Members discussed the structure and potential content of the Annual Letter to the Prime Minister.

7. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: OMBUDSMAN REVIEW

The lead Member gave an update on workstream progress. The group discussed the content of written submissions, the deadline for which passed at the end of April. Verbal evidence sessions have commenced as of the day of the meeting.

8. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: CODES OF CONDUCT

The lead Member gave a verbal update on workstream progress. Members discussed research projects, potential witnesses, analysis of existing Codes of Conduct, and the principles of enforcement, as well as applicability to local government.

9. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

An EIC official provided an update on workstream progress, including developments to the website, new media content, and meetings with various stakeholders in the engagement space.

10. LOBBYING, DISCLOSURE, AND ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT REVIEW

The Chair gave an update on review progress, which is continuing at pace. Members discussed potential recommendations.

11. AOB

Members agreed the date and time of the next meeting.