

**MINUTES: MONTHLY COMMISSION MEETING**

**14:00 - 16:00, 16 JULY 2026**

**ATTENDEES**

Members

1. Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE (Chair)
2. The Rt. Hon. Lady Arden of Heswall DBE
3. The Rt. Hon. Ian Blackford
4. The Baroness Crawley
5. Councillor Ruth Dombey OBE
6. Ewen Fergusson
7. Professor Gillian Peele
8. The Rt. Hon. Michael Tomlinson KC

EIC Officials

9. Nicola Iles MBE, Chief of Staff
10. Sarah Yarwood, Head of Public Engagement
11. Joseph Rice, Policy Adviser
12. Peter Kelleher, Head of Corporate Support

External Advisers

13. Professor Mark Philp, Senior Academic Adviser

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Stu Sterling, Chief Executive.

## **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**

Members had no comments on the minutes from the previous meeting.

## **4. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND UPDATE**

The Chair highlighted the internal and external engagements he has attended since the last meeting.

The Chair announced that political member Ian Blackford's term has been extended to the end of September 2026. The Chair also reported that No. 10 would be announcing the appointment of four new independent members to the EIC later this afternoon: Rev. Ijeoma Ajibade, Dr Samuel Power, Nicola Driver and Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou.

The Commission bid farewell to Professor Gillian Peele, whose term has come to a close.

## **5. CEO's UPDATE**

The Chief of Staff gave an update on recruitment and staffing matters.

## **6. LOBBYING, BUSINESS APPOINTMENT RULES AND DISCLOSURE REVIEW**

The Chair gave an update on the feedback received since the launch of the report.

## **7. NETWORK OF STANDARDS BODIES**

The Chair gave an update on the topics discussed at the quarterly meeting of the Network of Standards Bodies.

**8. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: PM LETTER**

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

**9. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: OMBUDSMAN REVIEW**

The lead Member gave an update on the workstream, underlining the progress made on oral evidence. Members discussed the review.

**10. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: CODES OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

The lead Member gave a verbal update on workstream progress, highlighting the progression of research to date and the progress made towards a call for evidence.

**11. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Members gave an update on progress made in the workstream, including new developments on the website and feedback on the launch of the review into Lobbying, Business Appointment Rules and Disclosure.

**12. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES**

Members discussed current standards issues.

**13. AOB**

Members agreed there will be no meeting in August due to Recess. The next meeting, in September, will be rescheduled due to absence.