

EIC implementation plan

The Ethics and Integrity Commission was formed on 13 October 2025 by evolving the Committee on Standards in Public Life.¹ The Commission is an independent, advisory, non-departmental public body that reports to the Prime Minister. The Terms of Reference for the EIC are published on the EIC's website.

Like the Committee it replaced, the overarching purpose of the Ethics and Integrity Commission is to promote the highest standards in public life.

The EIC will continue to carry out the work of the CSPL to engage the public sector on the Principles of Public Life and to conduct inquiries, collecting evidence to assess specific institutions, policies and regulatory mechanisms and making recommendations to government and others where appropriate. As the EIC, its remit will expand to include the requirements to report annually to the Prime Minister on the health of standards in public life and advise public authorities on the development of clear codes of conduct. Inevitably, it will take time to develop and implement the EIC's new responsibilities.²

This implementation plan sets out an 18 - 24 month plan for the transition of the Committee on Standards in Public Life into the Ethics and Integrity Commission, subject to the necessary resources being in place.

Stage 1

- Continuation of speaking engagements promoting CSPL's 2025 report, 'Recognising and responding to early warning signs in public sector bodies'.
- The first formal meeting of the network of ethics and standards bodies in central government and Parliament.
- Meetings with stakeholders about the EIC.
- Onboarding new staff and Commission members.

¹ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2025-07-21/hcws870>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-by-cspl-chair-doug-chalmers-cb-dso-obe>

Honesty

Objectivity

Openness

Selflessness

Integrity

Accountability

Leadership

Stage 2

- Launch of evidence-based research project on codes of conduct. This will inform the guidance and examples of best practice that the EIC will then seek to promulgate throughout the public sector.
- Launch of the EIC's first substantive review and commencement of the review's evidence phase. (Subject to new Commission members being in place and the staffing team being appropriately resourced. If the necessary resources are not in place, the EIC's first substantive review may be launched in Stage 3).
- Commence information gathering for the report to the PM on the health of the standards system.

Stage 3

- Consideration of evidence gathered for the research project on codes of conduct and preparation of draft report and guidance products.
- EIC review's evidence phase.
- Preparation of report to the PM on the health of the standards system.

Stage 4

- EIC publishes the first annual report to the Prime Minister on the health of the standards system.
- EIC publishes report on codes of conduct and commences programme of public sector engagement.

Stage 5

- Publication of first EIC review.
- Scoping and consideration of terms of reference for second EIC review.