ETHICS & INTEGRITY Commission

FULL MINUTES: MONTHLY COMMISSION MEETING

14:00 - 16:00, 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

ATTENDEES

Members

1. Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE (Chair)
2. The Reverend Ijeoma Ajibade
3. The Rt. Hon. Ian Blackford (virtual)
4. The Baroness Crawley
5. Ruth Dombey OBE
6. Nicola Driver
7. Ewen Fergusson
8. Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou
9. Dr Samuel Power
10. The Rt. Hon. Michael Tomlinson KC

EIC Officials

11. Stu Sterling OBE, Chief Executive
12. Nicola Iles MBE, Chief of Staff
13. Sarah Yarwood, Head of Public Engagement
14. Nathan Tamblyn, Head of Codes of Ethical Conduct
15. Peter Kelleher, Head of Corporate Support
16. Joseph Rice, Communications & Policy Adviser
17. Roshini Rajaiswaran, Executive Support Manager

1. APOLOGIES

The Rt. Hon. Lady Arden of Heswall DBE
Professor Mark Philp

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. New Commission members had provided individual declarations of interest prior to the meeting; no other updates had been received.

The Chair then invited Members to declare any additional interests relevant to the agenda. Nicola Driver declared previous professional links with bodies who fall in scope of the EIC's Ombudsman review: the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman and the Housing Ombudsman Service.

3. MINUTES

Members agreed the minutes of the July 2026 Commission meeting.

4. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND UPDATE

The Chair introduced the four new independent Members of the Commission: The Reverend Ijeoma Ajibade; Nicola Driver; Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou and Dr Samuel Power.

The Chair outlined guidance on various administrative matters, including ways of working, reminded Members of EIC's upcoming first anniversary in October 2026, and provided details of upcoming engagements which he will be undertaking on behalf of EIC.

5. CEO's UPDATE

The CEO gave a routine update on staffing and finance matters.

The Chief of Staff presented a draft proposal for the structure and content of the EIC's Annual Report. Members agreed to the proposal.

6. LOBBYING, BUSINESS APPOINTMENT RULES AND DISCLOSURE REVIEW

The Chair, supported by the relevant lead official, led a discussion reflecting on delivery of the Lobbying, Business Appointment Rules and Disclosure Review.

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7. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: PM LETTER

The Chair discussed the upcoming letter to the Prime Minister on the health of ethical standards, and updated the Commission on its content, which Members discussed.

8. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: OMBUDSMAN REVIEW

The lead Members gave an update on their recent activity engaging with stakeholders, as well as progress towards the drafting of the report.

Independent Member Nicola Driver declared a relevant interest, having worked previously with the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman and the Housing Ombudsman Service.

9. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: CODES OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

The Chair and the lead Official updated the Commission on the progress of the project, highlighting the key objectives of the guidance the team will produce.

10. WORKSTREAM DISCUSSION: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The lead Members gave an update on the work of the Public Engagement team, including upcoming events, media activities, and social media.

11. CURRENT STANDARDS ISSUES

Members discussed current standards issues.

12. AOB

Members agreed on the date of the next meeting.