



**COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE
171ST MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH APRIL 2010 AT 35 GREAT
SMITH STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON SW1P 3BQ**

Present: Sir Christopher Kelly KCB
Lloyd Clarke QPM
Dame Denise Platt DBE
David Prince CBE
Dr Elizabeth Vallance JP
Sir Derek Morris MA Dphil

Apologies: Dr Brian Woods-Scawen DL CBE
Oliver Heald MP
Rt Hon Alun Michael JP MP

Secretariat: Ruth Alaile, Secretary
Peter Hawthorne, Assistant Secretary
Martin Adams, Senior Policy Adviser
Rachel Finlay, Policy Adviser
Maggie O'Boyle, Press Officer
Matthew Dowding, Secretariat Co-ordinator

The Agenda for the Committee meeting was agreed.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2010 were agreed.

Register and declaration of interests

1. The latest register was reviewed and amended by the Committee.

Update on the Committee's 12th Report

2. The Committee considered developments on MPs' expenses since its last meeting in March. Namely:
 - The new scheme for MPs' expenses;
 - Guidance for candidates on declaring interests; and
 - The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010

3. The new MPs' expenses scheme published by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority and the Chair of the Committee's initial response to it were discussed. It was noted that most of the recommendations from the Committee's 12th Report had been implemented. But the Committee was concerned that IPSA had not implemented its recommended ban on the employment of family members, particularly as the expenses scandal was first brought to the public's attention by an allegation about misuse of public funds through the employment of family members.

4. The Committee noted the guidance for candidates on declarations of interest for Parliamentary election published by the Ministry of Justice in response to the Committee's report. It was agreed to write to the Ministry of Justice seeking clarification about their arrangements on monitoring the pilot voluntary guidance.

5. The Committee noted that the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act had received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010 and that all the provisions relating to the amendments to the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 recommended by the Committee had been approved.

CSPL Fees and Expenses Scheme 2010/11

6. The Committee reviewed and confirmed its expenses scheme.

Local and London Government Update

7. Draft papers which summarised the evidence that the Committee had received on local and London government were considered. It was agreed that they should be revised and drafted as short management papers which make reference to the evidence already available on our website.

Party Funding Hearing Update

8. Following the agreement at the last Committee meeting that the Committee should hold an exploratory public hearing on the funding of political parties in the UK, the Committee decided on its list of witnesses for the day. It was agreed that the chair of the Committee should write to the proposed witnesses inviting them to give evidence at the hearing on 8th July 2010.

Secretary's Report

9. The Secretary's Report was noted. The Committee considered developments on Peers' expenses. It agreed that it would continue to keep a close eye on the situation.

Current Issues and concerns

10. The report was noted.

The Secretariat

April 2010