

# **Annual Report 2010-11**

**Committee on Standards  
In Public Life**

**September 2011**

# THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

## SELFLESSNESS

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

## INTEGRITY

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

## OBJECTIVITY

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

## OPENNESS

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands

## HONESTY

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

## LEADERSHIP

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

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## FOREWORD

I am now in my fourth year as Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. I am struck by the common themes that run through many of the issues we see. High ethical standards do not just happen. They require leadership and the development of a strong ethical culture in which people understand what is expected of them. Overwhelmingly, the scandals we have seen in recent years could have been prevented. People within dysfunctional organisations were aware of problems and if they had acted earlier could have prevented the otherwise inevitable loss of public trust.

The level of deterioration in public trust in holders of public office can be seen in the results of the Committee's fourth biennial survey of public attitudes, which has just been published. Our research provides a baseline through which the Committee and others are able to map changes in public attitudes to standards over time. Encouragingly, confidence in regulatory authorities to uncover and punish any wrongdoing has remained stable. But this confidence is not reflected in views about the conduct of people in public life. Since 2008 there has been a marked reduction from 40 per cent to 30 per cent of respondents rating standards of conduct in public life as high. Within this, there has been a 20 per cent drop in the public's perception that MPs are doing a good job and a 14 per cent fall in whether they are believed to be in touch with public concerns.

The revelations about MPs' expenses in 2009 have clearly exacerbated the long-term trend of increasingly negative views about politicians. Public trust is hard won – and easily lost. There is a great deal of work to do to restore the reputation of our elected representatives.

Over the last year the Committee's work has primarily been focussed on our inquiry into the funding of political parties. It is abundantly clear that the existing arrangements do not command public confidence. Research commissioned as part of the public attitudes survey shows beyond any doubt that the public are concerned about large donations, whether from activist groups, large companies, trade unions, or individual donors. They believe that donations come with expectations of favours or influence. Even more worrying is that they believe such favours or influence are granted.

I am under no illusion that structural changes to the system of party funding will be easy. The issues are complex. Some of the possible solutions will be controversial. I expect there to be considerable resistance to some of our proposals when they are made, notwithstanding the public commitments to reform made in the manifestos of all three main political parties and in the Coalition Agreement. Our report, to be published shortly, will be a fresh, independent look at this issue. I strongly believe that the opportunity it offers to deal with this issue proactively – before another funding scandal forces change – should be taken.

The Committee has maintained a close watch throughout the year on the new arrangements for MPs' expenses, including the work of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA). The

establishment of an independent regulator to oversee and administer MPs' expenses was, and is, an essential step in restoring public confidence. There have manifestly been a number of early difficulties and the Committee welcomes the steps taken by IPSA to improve its operations. It is important that MPs are properly supported to carry out their important work, as well as taxpayers being assured that proper controls are in place to ensure propriety and value for money.

Among our other activities the Committee has consistently expressed its concerns about some aspects of the changes to the standards regime in local government contained in the Localism Bill. We understand and welcome the drive for simplification and less bureaucracy. But the new provisions risk stripping away critical parts of the ethical structure governing behaviour. In particular, we continue to believe that a mandatory code of conduct for councillors with an appropriate mechanism for investigating complaints is crucial. We will continue to monitor the situation and even now, late in the legislative process, to press the case for these essential requirements.

I pay tribute to the members of the Committee, particularly those who have stayed with us long beyond their intended term of office, for their hard work and wisdom throughout this year. We will continue working to promote the highest standards of conduct throughout public life.

**Christopher Kelly**

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on Standards in Public Life has wide terms of reference.

**“To examine current concerns about standards of conduct of all holders of public office, including arrangements relating to financial and commercial activities, and make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements which might be required to ensure the highest standards of propriety in public life and to review issues in relation to the funding of political parties, and to make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements.”<sup>1</sup>**

2. The Committee fulfils this role primarily through its formal inquiries. In addition, we routinely monitor and consider issues and concerns relating to standards in public life, track public perception of standards of conduct by public office holders and seek to promote the Seven Principles of Public Life. We contribute to public policy development through meetings, seminars, speaking engagements, and by responding to consultation papers on relevant issues.
3. This report provides an overview of the Committee’s activities over the course of the past year. We have spent most of our time on our inquiry into the funding of political parties. But there are a number of other important developments that have required our attention, including the implications of the Localism Bill and the operation of the new arrangements for monitoring MPs’ expenses and allowances.
4. The appendices to the report provide detail about the structure and finances of the Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Hansard (HC) 25 October 1994, col. 758 and Hansard (HC) 12 November 1997, col. 899

## OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

### Party political finance

5. The funding of political parties has long been subject of intense debate. The issues involved are both complex and controversial. The Committee's current inquiry is the third review of the party funding system since the *Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA)* substantially altered the regulatory regime in 2000.
6. In July 2010, the Committee held an exploratory hearing to hear views from a range of political parties, academics and others. In September 2010 we issued an Issues and Questions paper based on that hearing and invited responses from interested parties.
7. The Committee received written submissions from 84 individuals and organisations. We explored the issues further in 10 public evidence sessions held between November 2010 and February 2011 in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. We heard from a total of 52 witnesses, including representatives of large and small political parties, individual MPs, academics, the Electoral Commission, fundraising experts and a number of other interested organisations and individuals. The Committee also visited local political parties to meet officials and volunteers and to gain a better understanding of local pressures and concerns, and held an evidence session by video conference with a number of international experts.
8. While the transparency introduced in 2000 on our predecessor Committee's recommendation has improved the system, it has not been enough to remove scepticism about donations. It may in fact have added to widespread concern that the system remains corruptible, vulnerable to abuse, and detrimental to public confidence in both politics and politicians. It is presumably in recognition of this that all three of the main parties publicly committed themselves to reform in their manifestos for the last election. A corresponding commitment was made in the Coalition Agreement.
9. The lack of public confidence in the current arrangements was confirmed by the Committee's biennial attitude survey carried out between December 2010 and January 2011. Among those surveyed, 81 per cent believed that the most common reason for donating a large sum to a political party was the hope of getting special favours or access in return. 36 per cent of respondents thought that special favours in return for large donations occurred "very often" and a further 49 per cent thought they happened "sometimes". A separate online survey which was carried out in parallel and re-run in July 2011 suggested that these results are stable.
10. The report of the survey on public attitudes to party funding is available on the Committee's website ([www.public-standards.org.uk](http://www.public-standards.org.uk)) along with the Issues and Questions paper, written evidence and transcripts of the public hearings.

11. We expect to submit the report of our inquiry, and our recommendations for change, within the next few weeks.

## **Biennial survey of public attitudes**

12. The Committee has now published the results of its fourth biennial national survey of public attitudes towards standards of conduct of public office holders in the United Kingdom, of which the questions about donations to political parties formed part. The survey is part of a long-term study to track public opinion about standards in public life. It assesses two main issues:
  - The extent to which the public believes the behaviour of holders of public office to be acceptable or unacceptable
  - The extent to which the public believes that holders of public office are held responsible and accountable for their conduct
13. The questions included in the survey were based on the previous years' surveys to ensure that relevant comparisons can be made. Analysis of the findings of previous surveys demonstrated that there were a number of questions that produced little or no variation in the two year cycles of the surveys. As a result, it was possible this year to run a smaller set of questions to follow up on the key items, with the prospect of returning to a fuller range of questions (or a sub-set of that fuller range of questions) at a later stage. The significantly shorter set of questions made a stand-alone survey inappropriately costly. So the questions were added to the omnibus survey run by TNS-BMRB.
14. The results show that confidence in MPs to tell the truth, not surprisingly, has declined since the last survey. The degree of confidence in the truthfulness of other professional groups, such as the police and the judiciary, has remained stable. It appears that the public do have a degree of confidence in this respect of some areas of public service , but that these views do not affect, and are not (as yet) affected by, their attitudes to politicians.
15. The survey showed an increase on previous years' confidence in the media. It is possible that this may be linked to the perceived role of journalists in relation to MPs' expenses. A separate online survey conducted some months later in association with the University of Nottingham suggests that confidence in journalists may now have declined back towards previous levels in the aftermath of the phone hacking scandal.
16. The survey shows no change in levels of trust in ministers and MPs in general, but a slight decline in trust in local MPs. More detailed questions about the standards that the public expect of MPs showed a considerable fall in confidence that MPs will conform to these standards. Confidence in relation to MPs' conduct has fallen on almost every measure.
17. Views on which factors most influence MPs' decisions appear to have changed over time. In the most

recent survey, more people than before believed that MPs base their decisions on what the party's election manifesto promises, and on what would benefit people living in the MP's local constituency. Fewer people believed that they base their decision on what will make their party more popular or what might affect their political career.

18. These results suggest increased complexity in terms of expectations of politicians, with a greater acknowledgement of the influence of parties at both the national and local level than in previous surveys.
19. The evidence collected shows a long-term decline in confidence in public office holders between 2004 and 2010. On many issues, the 2010 results show a steeper decline than in the previous period. The results also suggest either that there was no increase in confidence after the election, as might have been anticipated, or that any such increase had collapsed by the time of the survey. It is also possible that there was in fact a post-election increase in confidence which could have masked an even steeper overall decline than is reported.
20. In contrast, the survey reveals a relatively stable, and in some respects improved, evaluation of the role of the authorities in uncovering and punishing offences. Together with a good deal of evidence collected in the surveys over time about trust in professionals, the consistency with which values are supported, and the reasonably high confidence that wrong-doing will be uncovered, this suggests that the increasingly negative perceptions of politicians are balanced by more stable confidence in many British institutions and practices.
21. The results of the 2010 survey, along with those for previous years, can be found on the Committee's website at: [www.public-standards.gov.uk/OurWork/Public\\_Atitudes\\_Surveys.html](http://www.public-standards.gov.uk/OurWork/Public_Atitudes_Surveys.html).

## STANDARDS CHECK

### MPs' expenses and allowances

22. The Committee has closely monitored the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) during its first year. We welcomed the opportunity to submit a response to ISPA's first Annual Review of the MPs' Expenses Scheme. A copy of the response, submitted in February 2011, is available on our website at: [www.public-standards.org.uk/OurWork/Other\\_Reports\\_and\\_Research.html](http://www.public-standards.org.uk/OurWork/Other_Reports_and_Research.html).
23. The Committee believes that the creation of an independent regulator was a significant first step towards restoring public confidence. The bedding in process has not been easy. It is important for IPSA not to lose sight of the fact that its fundamental purpose is to support MPs in carrying out their important and often difficult jobs, while of course doing so in a way which safeguards the taxpayer

and promotes integrity. It is clear the current system is not yet fully achieving its objective in this respect. The Committee welcomes the changes IPSA has recently made to improve the scheme, including increasing help for MPs with families and increasing the number of MPs who are able to claim support for rented accommodation.

24. We recommended in our twelfth report that new MPs should not be able to use their expenses to employ family members at public expense, though existing MPs who already did so should be allowed to continue for one more Parliament. We were disappointed that IPSA chose not to implement this recommendation, though they have limited MPs to the employment of one family member. We continue to be concerned about the potential for abuse – perceived or otherwise – which this creates, with the possibility of new damage to the reputation of Parliament.
25. In March 2010, the Committee submitted evidence to the Procedure Committee’s inquiry into lay membership of the Committee on Standards and Privileges to reaffirm our recommendation that there should be a non-parliamentary element to membership as a step towards enhancing public acceptance of the robustness and independence of the disciplinary process for MPs. This evidence is also available on the Committee’s website.

## Localism Bill

26. The Localism Bill was introduced to Parliament in December 2010 and includes provisions to abolish the current standards regime for local government virtually in its entirety.
27. The Committee welcomes the Bill’s objectives of promoting local ownership of standards and of ending vexatious complaints. There is much in the Government’s proposals which the Committee can welcome and which is consistent with our two previous relevant reports in 1997 and 2005, available on our website at:  
[www.public-standards.org.uk/OurWork/Previous\\_Reports.html](http://www.public-standards.org.uk/OurWork/Previous_Reports.html).
28. But we have serious concerns in a number of areas which we have consistently conveyed to the Government, the Local Government Association and others.
29. In particular we believe it would be a backward step to remove the mandatory requirement for a code of conduct governing the behaviour of local authority councillors, which would put councillors in England in a different position to their counterparts in Scotland and Wales, to MPs and to most other public office holders. We think that it is unrealistic to believe that in the absence of a code, office holders will always be clear about the proper boundaries of conduct in public life and that the public have the right to expect clarity about acceptable behaviour by those they elect. Elected representatives need to be clear about what is expected of them, as do their electors.

30. We also believe that it is insufficient to leave any instances of poor conduct solely to be dealt with by criminal law or through the discipline of the ballot box. There are numerous examples of types of behaviour for which a criminal prosecution would not be appropriate, or easy to undertake, but which most people would think fall short of the standards expected of public office holders and deserving of some sort of sanction.
31. The Committee continues to believe that if standards in local government, and public confidence in them, is to be maintained the new arrangements need to include as essential parts:
- A mandatory code of conduct, which could locally determined but within a national framework set by Parliament or the Local Government Association.
  - An appropriate mechanism for making complaints.
  - A local but independent mechanism for investigation of complaints about behaviour which are non-trivial but not appropriate for criminal sanction.
  - Some way of ensuring that local codes of conduct are meeting the minimum standards, and possibly for dealing with some of the more serious complaints, for example those involving the behaviour of a leader.
  - An independent appeals mechanism for those councillors found guilty of breaking the code.
32. Unless an appropriate and effective framework which meets the requirements set out above is maintained there is a real risk that bad conduct will not be dealt with effectively and public confidence in local government will be eroded at a time when the scope of local decision-making in planning and other matters is being increased.

## Ministerial Code

33. As is customary, the Prime Minister published a new version of the Ministerial Code following the general election. The provisions of the Ministerial Code are important in setting out the standards of conduct that the public expect of ministers.
34. The previous Prime Minister gave the Committee the opportunity to comment on the last Ministerial Code before it was published. We regret that we were not given the same opportunity this time.
35. We welcome the fact that the new Code makes clear that former ministers must not only seek the advice of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments but must also abide by it. We recommended in our report on MPs' Expenses and Allowances (Cm 7724) that the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament should be revised to allow for complaints to be made against an MP who is a former minister and who takes on outside employment but does not follow advice provided by the Advisory Committee.

36. The Committee welcomes the greater transparency in the new code in relation to ministerial travel and hospitality.

## **Civil service and public appointments**

37. In the course of this year the posts of First Civil Service Commissioner and Commissioner for Public Appointments were merged. The appointment of Sir David Normington to those two posts simultaneously, supported by a single secretariat, is a natural next step in the regulation of public appointments – formally combining the skills and experiences of both organisations.

38. The Committee will continue to keep a watchful eye on the regulation of civil service and public appointments as they enter this new phase.

## **Devolved legislatures**

### **Dual mandates**

39. In the Committee's twelfth report we made a recommendation that the practice of permitting a Westminster MP to sit simultaneously in a devolved legislature should be brought to an end, ideally by the time of the election to the three devolved legislatures held in May 2011. This recommendation was primarily directed at the situation in Northern Ireland where in the last Parliament sixteen out of eighteen MPs representing Northern Ireland constituencies were also members of the Northern Ireland Assembly (MLAs).

40. Following the publication of our report, a number of dual mandate MPs indicated that they would either give up their seat if elected to Westminster in May 2010 or not stand for re-election to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2011. But there are still nine Northern Ireland MPs (50 per cent) who have dual mandates, two of whom are also ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive.

41. The Committee continues to question whether it is possible to sit in two national legislatures simultaneously and do justice to both roles, particularly if the MP concerned holds a ministerial position. The political parties in Northern Ireland appear unwilling or unable to end dual mandates on a voluntary basis. We believe the government should introduce legislation to bring the practice to an end by the time of the next Northern Ireland Assembly elections due in May 2015.

### **Independent Financial Review Panel for MLAs**

42. The Committee provided written evidence to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly Members (Independent Financial Review and Standards) Bill. The Bill, which received Royal Assent in March 2011, set up an independent financial review panel to determine the salaries, allowances and pensions of MLAs. The Committee welcomes this move. The Panel will be required to exercise its functions with a view to achieving a proper balance between ensuring probity,

accountability and value for money on the one hand, and securing a level of remuneration for MLAs which allows them to discharge their functions properly on the other.

43. The Act also contains a number of provisions in relation to the appointment of an independent Commissioner for Standards for the Assembly, including giving the commissioner powers to initiate investigations rather than waiting until a complaint is made and to require witnesses to give evidence or to provide documents. The Committee welcomes these provisions.

## REPRESENTATIONS AND SPEECHES

44. Over the course of the year, the Chair has spoken at a number of events on standards issues:

- In May 2010 he delivered the LSE Annual Health and Social Care Lecture on Trust, Transparency and Care.
- In September 2010, he addressed the Foundation Trust Network's Annual Governance Conference and the European Anti-Fraud's Office lunchtime seminar, where he spoke about MPs' expenses and public confidence.
- In October 2010 he gave a wide-ranging presentation to Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA) Better Governance Forum on the Seven Principles, the role of the Committee and its work on MPs' expenses and local governance.
- In November 2010, he participated in Public Administration International's Public Service Commission study programme.
- Also in November 2010, the Chair contributed to a collection of essays commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the Office of the Public Appointments Commissioner and delivered remarks at the reception to mark the occasion.

45. The transcripts of the Chair's speeches are available on our website: [www.public-standards.org.uk/OurWork/Speeches.html](http://www.public-standards.org.uk/OurWork/Speeches.html).

46. Other Committee Members also spoke about the work of the Committee and standards issues at:

- The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Professional Standards Conference (April 2010),
- The Association of Certified Chartered Accountants' (ACCA) International Public Sector Conference, on 'Accounting for a Sustainable Future' (December 2010),
- And participated in the Ethics in Public Life study programme at the University of Exeter (September 2010).

## APPENDIX 1: ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

### Terms of reference

47. The Committee on Standards in Public Life was established under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Nolan by the then Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Major, in October 1994, with the following terms of reference:

**“To examine current concerns about standards of conduct of all holders of public office, including arrangements relating to financial and commercial activities, and make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements which might be required to ensure the highest standards of propriety in public life.”<sup>2</sup>**

48. The following month Mr Major said of the Committee:

**“It is to act as a running authority of reference – almost you might say, an ethical workshop called in to do running repairs.”<sup>3</sup>**

49. On 12 November 1997, the then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Tony Blair, announced additional terms of reference:

**“To review issues in relation to the funding of political parties and to make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements.”<sup>4</sup>**

50. The Committee’s remit covers ministers, civil servants and advisers, Members of Parliament and UK Members of the European Parliament, board members and senior officers of NDPBs and of NHS bodies, non-Ministerial office holders, members and other senior officers of other bodies discharging publicly-funded functions and elected members and senior officers of local authorities.

### Status

51. The Committee is an independent advisory non-departmental public body (NDPB). Its members are appointed by the Prime Minister. Seven of its members, including the chairman, are chosen through open competition under the rules of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). The remaining three members are nominated by the three main political parties. The Committee is not founded in statute and has no legal powers to compel witnesses to provide evidence or to enforce its recommendations. Nor does it have any powers to investigate individual allegations of

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<sup>2</sup> Hansard (HC) 25 October 1994, col. 758

<sup>3</sup> Speech at the Lord Mayor’s Banquet, 14 November 1994.

<sup>4</sup> Hansard (HC) 12 November 1997, col. 899

misconduct. It presents its recommendations directly to the Prime Minister.

## Funding and administration

52. The Committee receives its budget from the Cabinet Office. Day-to-day responsibility for financial controls and budgetary mechanisms are delegated to the secretary of the Committee. The secretary and the rest of the secretariat are permanent civil servants employed by the Cabinet Office.

## Policy on openness

53. As an integral part of its first report the Committee defined the Seven Principles of Public Life. The Committee has always sought to implement these principles in its own work, including the principle of openness.

54. The Secretary of the Committee has responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Committee's publication scheme under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Most of the information held by the Committee is readily available, and does not require a Freedom of Information Act request before it can be accessed. The Committee can be contacted in writing, by email, by telephone or by fax. The public can also access information via the Committee's website. Requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act should be made to the secretary to the Committee at the following address:

- **Committee on Standards in Public Life**  
35 Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BQ
- Phone: 020 7276 2595
- Fax: 020 7276 2585
- Email: [public@standards.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:public@standards.x.gsi.gov.uk)
- Website: [www.public-standards.org.uk](http://www.public-standards.org.uk)

## APPENDIX 2: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Committee members are appointed for a three year term, with the possibility of reappointment, normally for a further two years. The chair is appointed for a single non-renewable five year term.

### Chair: Sir Christopher Kelly KCB

**Appointed:** 1 January 2008      **Term ends:** 31 December 2012

Christopher Kelly is Chair of the Kings Fund and of the Financial Ombudsman Service. He was previously a civil servant. Between 1970 and 1995 he worked in HM Treasury, latterly as Director of Monetary and Fiscal Policy and then Director of the Budget and Public Finances. Between 1995 and 1997 he was Head of Policy Group at the then Department of Social Security. From 1997 to 2000 he was Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health. Since leaving the Civil Service he has chaired, or been a member of, a number of advisory and other groups in the public, private and voluntary sectors. He was Chairman of the NSPCC between 2002 and 2010.

### The Lord Alderdice

**Appointed:** 1 September 2010      **Term ends:** 31 August 2013

John Alderdice is a fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He led the Alliance Party and has held a variety of positions in the Federation of European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Parties and Liberal International. He was one of the negotiators of the Good Friday Agreement. Raised to the peerage on October 1996, he took his seat on the Liberal Democrat benches in the House of Lords on 5 November that year. In 1998 Lord Alderdice was elected member for Belfast East and appointed Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly. In 2004 he was appointed as a Commissioner for the newly established Independent Monitoring Commission.

### Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP

**Appointed:** 1 November 2010      **Term ends:** 31 October 2013

Margaret Beckett has been Labour MP for Derby South since 1983. She was Secretary of State for Trade and Industry 1997-1998; President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons 1998-2001; Secretary of State for: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 2001-2006, Foreign Affairs 2006-2007; Minister for Housing and Planning (attending Cabinet), Department for Communities and Local Government 2008-2009. She has also been Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee.

### Lloyd Clarke QPM

**Appointed:** 1 November 2004      **Re-appointed:** 1 November 2007      **Term ends:** 31 September 2011

Lloyd Clarke is a Trustee of the Guinness Trust and a Non-Executive Director of the Guinness Partnership Board. He is also Chairman of the Guinness Northern Counties Housing Association. He was police officer for thirty-one years with West Yorkshire Police, retiring as the Deputy Chief Constable. Between 2000 and 2005, he was the Chief Executive and Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency. Since leaving the police service he has worked with different public bodies particularly looking at aspects of security and good governance

### **Oliver Heald MP**

**Appointed:** 1 March 2008      **Re-appointed:** 1 March 2011      **Term ends:** 28 February 2014

Oliver Heald was called to the Bar in 1977 and has practised as a barrister on the South Eastern Circuit. He is a specialist in employment law. He was elected as Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire at the General Election of April 1992. He has served as a Minister in the Department of Social Security and is a former Shadow Leader of the House of Commons. He is currently a member of the Standards and Privileges Select Committee, Chairman of the Society of Conservative Lawyers Executive Committee and Chairman of the Parliamentary Resources Unit.

### **Sir Derek James Morris MA Dphil**

**Appointed:** 1 March 2008      **Re-appointed:** 1 March 2011      **Term ends:** 28 February 2014

Derek Morris has been Provost of Oriel College, Oxford since 2004. Previously he was Chairman of the Competition Commission (formerly the Monopolies and Mergers Commission). From 1970 to 1997 he was and Economics Fellow at Oriel College and from 2004 to 2005 he chaired the Morris Review of the Actuarial Profession. He is Chairman of Trustees of Oxford University Press Pension Fund, a Non-Executive Director of Lucida plc and a senior consultant to Frontier Economics.

### **Dame Denise Platt DBE**

**Appointed:** 1 July 2008      **Re-appointed:** 1 July 2011      **Term ends:** 30 June 2014

Denise Platt was an Audit Commissioner and the Chair of the independent advisory panel for the Local Innovation Awards until October 2010. From 2004 until 2009 she was Chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (now the Care Quality Commission). She has held a variety of posts both nationally and locally in local government and social care and has been an independent panel member to appoint Electoral Commissioners. She holds posts with a number of voluntary organisations and is the chair of the National AIDS Trust (NAT). She is governor of the University of Bedfordshire and a member of the independent Review Board of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and the independent Commission on Assisted Dying.

## David Prince CBE

**Appointed:** 1 June 2009

**Term ends:** 31 May 2012

David Prince is the former Chief Executive of The Standards Board for England. He held senior positions at the Audit Commission, as Managing Director, Strategy and Resources and District Audit. Previously his career was in local government, where posts included the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council and Director of Finance and Administration of Cambridgeshire County Council. He holds Non-Executive independent appointments as lay member of the General Social Care Council, Leicestershire Police Authority and the Performance and Best Value Committee of the Bar Standards Board.

## Dr Brian Woods-Scawen DL CBE

**Appointed:** 1 January 2004

**Re-appointed:** 1 November 2007

**Term ends:** 30 September 2011

Brian Woods-Scawen is a chartered accountant and was a partner in PriceWaterHouse Coopers from 1980 until 2003. He is currently a Non-Executive board member for a number of organisations in the private and public sectors. He holds public appointments as a non-executive Board member of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, the Government Office for the West Midlands, the Pensions Disability and Carers Service and the Office for Legal Complaints.

## Dr Elizabeth Vallance JP

**Appointed:** 26 April 2004

**Re-appointed:** 1 November 2007

**Term ends:** 30 September 2011

Elizabeth Vallance was Head of the Department of Politics at Queen Mary, University of London where she is now an Honorary Fellow. She is a Sloan Fellow of the London Business School and until 2009 chaired the Council of the Institute of Education, University of London, where she is also an Honorary Fellow. She is chairman of ICAN, the children's communication charity and is a Non-Executive Director of Charter European Trust plc and the Medical Protection Society. She sits as a Presiding Magistrate on the Inner London Bench and was High Sheriff of Greater London from 2008 to 2009. Until 2010 she was also a member of the Press Complaints Commission Appointments Commission.

## Research Advisory Board

The Committee's work is supported by a Research Advisory Board. The current Board members are:

- **Dr Mark Philp** (Chairman), Fellow and Tutor in Politics, Oriel College, University of Oxford
- **Dr Jean Martin**, Senior Research Fellow, Social Inequality and Survey Methods, Department of Sociology, University of Oxford
- **Professor Cees van der Eijk**, Professor of Social Science Research Methods, Director of Social

## Members' attendance (1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011)

55. The table below shows the total number of meetings that each current member of the Committee could have attended and the number they actually attended. Alun Michael's term ended in July 2010. During the period of his membership, he attended two meetings out of a possible five. He was replaced by Margaret Beckett.

Name	Possible meetings	Actual meetings	Possible hearings	Actual hearings
Sir Christopher Kelly	10	10	11	11
The Lord Alderdice	7	5	10	6
Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP	5	5	10	6
Lloyd Clarke	10	9	11	9
Oliver Heald MP	10	9	11	9
Alun Michael MP	1	1	1	1
Sir Derek Morris	10	8	11	10
Dame Denise Platt	10	9	11	9
David Prince	10	10	11	10
Dr Brian Woods-Scawen	10	8	11	8
Dr Elizabeth Vallance	10	9	11	10

## Remuneration

56. Those Committee members who do not already receive a salary from public funds may claim £240 for each day they work on Committee business. The Chair is paid a flat rate of £50,000 a year. All members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred.
57. For the period of April 2010-March 2011 eligible committee members claimed a total of £25,980 in fees and £11,039 in expenses, much of which was associated with the public hearings held in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast as part of the public funding inquiry.

## Code of practice and register of interests

58. In accordance with the best practice recommended in its first report, members of the Committee formally adopted a code of practice in March 1999. The code is available on the website and has been reviewed periodically by the Committee, most recently in July 2011. Members provide details of any interests that might impinge on the work of the Committee through the Committee's register of interests, also available on the website at: [www.public-standards.org.uk/About/Register\\_of\\_Interests.html](http://www.public-standards.org.uk/About/Register_of_Interests.html).

## APPENDIX 3: FINANCIAL INFORMATION

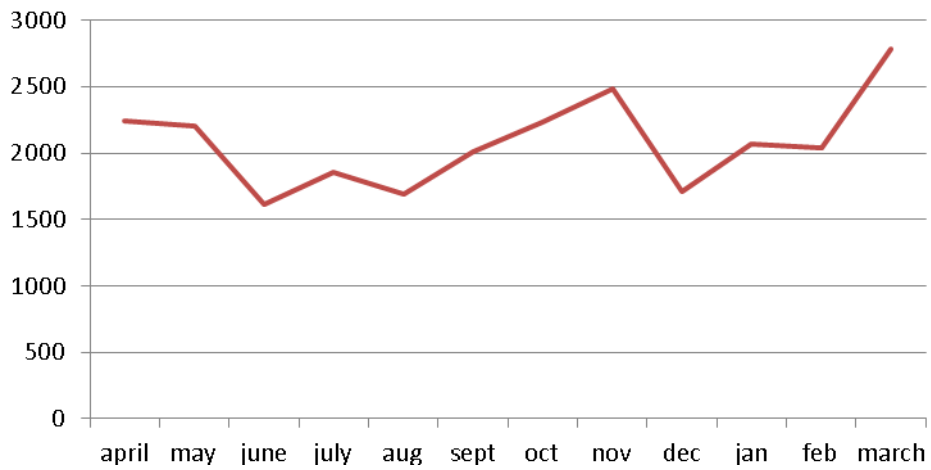
Expenditure	2010-11 (£)	2009-10 (£)
<b>Staff costs and fees</b>	403,252	425,066
<b>Other running costs</b>	132,377	236,515
<b>Total net expenditure</b>	<b>535,629</b>	<b>661,581</b>

59. The Committee's original budget allocation in 2010-2011 was £638,000.
60. As an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), the Committee receives its delegated budget from the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office Accounting Officer has personal responsibility for the regularity and propriety of the Cabinet Office Vote. Responsibility for certain levels of authorisation, methods of control and day to day mechanisms have been delegated to the secretary to the Committee.
61. Total expenditure for 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 was £535,629, representing savings of £102,371. This is due to reducing the number of staff and running costs in line with departmental spending cuts.
62. The Secretary to the Committee is responsible for setting out clearly the outputs and outcomes which the Committee plans to deliver with the resources for which they have delegated authority, and for reporting regularly on resource usage and success in delivering those plans. She is also responsible for maintaining a sound system of internal control over the resources for which she has delegated authority, and for providing the accounting officer with assurances that those controls are effective.

## APPENDIX 4: WEBSITE TRAFFIC 2010-11

Between 2010 and 2011 the Committee on Standards in Public Life's website received approximately 30,000 visits. The following charts show the traffic flows over time and the pages attracting most interest.

### website traffic 2010-11



### top 5 most visted pages

- The seven principles
- About us
- Our work
- Party political finance



## APPENDIX 3: REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

63. The Committee has published reports on the following subjects:

- MPs' Expenses and Allowances: Supporting Parliament, Safeguarding the Taxpayer (Twelfth Report (Cm7724)) (November 2009)
- Review of the Electoral Commission (Eleventh Report (Cm7006)) (January 2007)
- Getting the Balance Right: Implementing Standards of Conduct in Public Life (Tenth Report (Cm6407)) (January 2005)
- Defining the Boundaries within the Executive: Ministers, Special Advisers and the permanent Civil Service (Ninth Report (Cm 5775)) (April 2003)
- Standards of Conduct in the House of Commons (Eighth Report (Cm 5663)) (November 2002)
- Standards of Conduct in the House of Lords (Seventh Report (Cm 4903)) (November 2000)
- The Funding of Political Parties in the United Kingdom (Fifth Report (Cm 4057)) (October 1998)
- Local Government in England, Scotland and Wales (Third Report (Cm 3702)) (July 1997)
- Local Public Spending Bodies (Second Report (Cm 3270)) (June 1996)
- Members of Parliament, Ministers, Civil Servants and Quangos (First Report (Cm 2850)) (May 1995)

64. The Committee is a standing committee and can therefore revisit areas on which it has reported to monitor its recommendations in effect. The Committee has conducted two reviews and a stock-take:

- A review of recommendations contained in the First and Second Reports relating to standards of conduct in Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), NHS Trusts and Local Public Spending Bodies (Fourth Report) (November 1997)<sup>5</sup>
- A review of recommendations contained in the First Report relating to Members of Parliament, Ministers, Civil Servants and proportionality in the public appointments system (Sixth Report entitled Reinforcing Standards (Cm 4557)) (January 2000).
- A stock-take of the action taken on each of the 308 recommendations made in the Committee's seven reports since 1994 (The First Seven Reports - A Review of Progress) (September 2001).

65. Since 2004, the Committee has also undertaken four biennial surveys of public attitudes towards conduct in public life. Findings were published in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2011.

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<sup>5</sup> This report was not published as a Command Paper.

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