

Conduct Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 23 July at 1pm via MS Teams

Present:

B. Anelay of St Johns	Vanessa Davies
L. Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood	B. Donaghy
Cindy Butts	B. Hussein-Ece
Mark Castle	L. Mance (Chair)
Andrea Coomber	

With the Clerk of the Parliaments

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 16 July 2020

The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 16 July were agreed.

1. Briefing on the report by the Intelligence Security Committee (ISC) on Russia

The Committee discussed the latest report by the Intelligence Security Committee (ISC) on Russia which called for greater transparency in the Lords concerning payments received by members for work outside the House.

The Chair declared relevant interests for this item relating to his income from international work.

The Committee agreed to release a statement acknowledging the importance of the issues raised and to emphasise it would be considered urgently, as well as to highlight the unique complexities within which the Lords operates.

2. Lord Stone of Blackheath report – Consideration of publication and any accompanying statement [RESTRICTED]

The Committee discussed the draft statement proposed to accompany the publication of the report into the conduct of Lord Stone the following week.

As it was noted that Lord Stone has not yet completed the Valuing Everyone training, it was agreed that he would be required to attend the training within two months of the report being published.

3. Investigating ICGS allegations relating to ex-MPs in the House of Lords

The Clerk to the Committee introduced this paper addressing the need for the two Houses to come to an agreement about how to investigate allegations of bullying, harassment or sexual misconduct by members of the Lords who were MPs when the alleged conduct took place. The paper invited the Committee to agree a proposal to put to the House of Commons Committee on Standards.

The Committee agreed to put forward the proposed model in a letter to the Chair of the Commons Standards Committee.

4. Oral update on Steering Group for Change [standing item]

Baroness Donaghy, chair of the Steering Group for Change, provided an oral update to the Committee.

At the last meeting, the Steering Group had considered a bicameral document concerning implementing service restrictions and they were encouraged to see it gave confidence to managers who may have to act.

The Steering Group had also set up three working groups of its own, focusing on leadership, peers and administration and health and safety.

5. Data on Commissioner workload [standing item]

The Standards and Registry Clerk, introduced this paper updating the Committee on the Commissioner's workload.

6. Any other business

There was no further business.

Chloe Mawson
Clerk to the Conduct Committee
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