



**3rd meeting
COND/23-24**

Conduct Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 21 February at 4pm in 2-03, Millbank House and via MS Teams

Present:

L. Blair of Boughton
Cindy Butts
Mark Castle (via Teams)
Andrea Coomber (via Teams)
Vanessa Davies (via Teams)

L. Garnier (via Teams)
B. Mallalieu (via Teams)
B. Manningham-Buller (Chair)
L. Scriven

With the Clerk Assistant.

DELIBERATION IN PRIVATE

1. Minutes of the meeting of 24 January 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Oral update by the Chair

The Chair informed the Committee that Michael Torrance (Standards Clerk) would be moving to a new role in the Administration next month and thanked him for his work over the last two years.

3. Commissioners' office oral update

Michael Torrance updated the Committee on current investigations.

4. ICGS oral update

Alex Smith (ICGS Lords Lead) updated the Committee. The procurement process for the ICGS 'Helpline' was looking at a hybrid model, to maintain the external nature of the service while bringing some of its features in-house.

5. Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme: 'Facilitating Multiple Complaints' (FMC)

(COND/23-24/4) A paper by ICGS Lords Lead

The Committee noted the paper.

6. Review of the Code and Guide: scoping paper
(COND/23-24/5) A paper by the Clerk

The Chair spoke to the paper.

The Committee discussed the aims of the review of the Code of Conduct and Guide to the Code. The Committee agreed to take the existing Code and Guide as the start point of the review, but with the aim to reduce their length. It would not set out with the aim of widening the scope of the Code but would keep an open mind as issues arose. The Committee would reflect on different approaches to codes of conduct by other legislatures and bodies during the review, without examining them exhaustively. The Committee agreed that the rule on personal honour and the concept of reputational damage would be considered fully during the review and so it would be helpful to refer to them in the call for evidence.

The Committee discussed how the review should be conducted. The Committee agreed to take some oral evidence in public and some in private, depending on the nature of the session. The Committee would meet fortnightly while taking evidence. Committee members were invited to contact the clerk to suggest individuals or organisations from whom evidence could be sought.

The Committee discussed the launch of the review and the draft call for evidence. The Committee discussed additions to the draft call for evidence, including emphasising the importance of public confidence in the House, a question on the structure of the Code, and a 'free text' question to allow stakeholders to comment on other areas.

7. Any other business

The Conduct Committee will next meet on 20 March at 4pm.

The Committee adjourned.

Christopher Johnson
Clerk to the Conduct Committee
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