



Conduct Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 4pm in Room 2-03 Millbank House, and via MS Teams

Present:

Cindy Butts
Mark Castle (via Teams)
Andrea Coomber
Vanessa Davies (via Teams)

L. Garnier
B. Manningham-Buller (Chair)
L. Scriven

With the Clerk Assistant. Apologies were received from Baroness Mallalieu and Lord Blair of Boughton.

DELIBERATION IN PRIVATE

1. Minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Chair's oral update

The Chair updated the Committee on its membership.

The Registrar of Lords' Interests updated the Committee on the annual audit of members' entries in the Register of Lords' Interests, which is under way.

3. Commissioners' office oral update

Gabby Longdin (Standards Clerk) updated the Committee on current investigations.

4. ICGS oral update

Alex Smith (ICGS Lords Lead) updated the Committee on Paul Kernaghan's review of the ICGS. The recommendations from the review are in draft and will be shared with the Committee in due course. The latest round of Behaviour Code seminars is under way. The seminars have received positive feedback from new members who have attended.

5. Code of Conduct review: progress update

Paper by the Clerk (COND/23-24/13)

The Clerk introduced the paper. The Committee noted the paper.

Members of the Committee proposed further witnesses from whom evidence may be sought: the Local Government Association, Lord Evans of Weardale and the UK Governance Project.

6. The conduct of Lord Ranger of Northwood

Note by the Clerk, Commissioner's Report, letter from Lord Ranger of Northwood, draft Committee report (COND/23-24/14)

The Chair introduced the papers.

The Committee considered the Commissioner's proposed sanction, including the aggravating and mitigating factors set out in the Commissioner's report. The Committee considered whether a suspension of one week was appropriate given the findings.

The Committee agreed to seek further representations from the complainants, respondent and the Commissioner about the recommended sanction. After these representations have been received, the Committee will meet again to agree a recommended sanction.

7. Any other business

The Conduct Committee will next meet virtually in the week commencing the 6 May.

The Committee adjourned.

Christopher Johnson
Clerk to the Conduct Committee
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