



**1st meeting
COND/24-25**

Conduct Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 11 September 2024 in room 2-03 Millbank House and via Teams

Present:

Cindy Butts	L. Garnier
Mark Castle	B. Kidron
Andrea Coomber	B. Mallalieu
Vanessa Davies (via Teams)	B. Manningham-Buller (Chair)

With the Clerk Assistant. Apologies were received from Lord Scriven.

DELIBERATION IN PRIVATE

1. Chair's oral update

The Chair provided an oral update.

2. ICGS oral update

Alex Smith (ICGS Lords Lead) provided an oral update on the work of the ICGS. The policy was being reviewed on whether new members who were previously MPs and had undertaken the Behaviour Code training while an MP should be required to reattend the training on entering the House of Lords.

3. Commissioners' office oral update

Gabby Longdin (Standards Clerk) updated the Committee on live cases. Akbar Khan will formally step down as Commissioner for Standards on 13 September, following his appointment as Judge of the Upper Tribunal, Immigration and Asylum Chamber. The recruitment process for his replacement as Commissioner for Standards was under way.

4. Commissioners for Standards' Annual Report

Martin Jelley and Akbar Khan, the Commissioners for Standards, attended the Committee and presented the Commissioners' Annual Report 2023–24.

The Committee discussed the report with the Commissioners, including trends in complaints that were dismissed at preliminary assessment and in investigations. The Committee discussed whether there were channels for feedback on the investigative process from complainants and respondents. The Committee asked the Commissioners for their experiences of complaints relating to social media and freedom of speech, in the light of the review of the Code of Conduct.

5. Review of the Code of Conduct update

The Chair provided an update on the review of the Code of Conduct. Oral evidence sessions have been scheduled throughout October, and the deadline for written submissions is 31 October. A debate on the review has been scheduled in Grand Committee for 8 October.

The Committee discussed ways to increase engagement with the review from a broad range of members of the House.

6. Any other business

The Conduct Committee will next meet on 9 October 2024 at 4pm.

The Committee adjourned.

Christopher Johnson
Clerk to the Conduct Committee
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