



Conduct Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 20 May at 1pm via MS Teams

Present:

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

With the Clerk Assistant.

An apology was received from Cindy Butts.

DELIBERATION IN PRIVATE

1. Minutes of the meeting from 21 April.

Prior to the meeting, the Chair proposed by email a minor change to item 4 of the minutes of the meeting from 21 April. The Committee agreed to this change.

Further to the discussion of the Committee's composition at the meeting on 21 April, the Clerk confirmed the dates on which members of the Committee would rotate off. It was noted that all peers on the Committee were scheduled to rotate off in January 2022, and all lay members were scheduled to leave in July 2023. The Committee noted that a paper would be put to the Procedure and Privileges Committee requesting an extension for two or three peers on the Committee beyond January 2022 to promote consistency and continuity. It was noted that, ideally, one of those peers would be the Chair. It was also noted that lay members could be reappointed for another term in July 2023.

The minutes of the meeting on 21 April were agreed.

2. Oral update by the Chair

The Chair informed the Committee that he would move a motion to appoint the new Commissioners for Standards—Akbar Khan and Martin Jelley—on 26 May.

The Chair informed the Committee that he had received a letter from the Steering Group for Change in which they asked the Committee to review the reputational damage report with a view to pushing it forward at the right time. The Committee also noted that the Chair had received a letter from the Lord Speaker to say that he was pleased that the Committee had a report on reputational damage ready to present to the House when the time was right.



HOUSE OF LORDS

**1st meeting
COND/21-22**

The Chair informed the Committee that he had held a meeting with the new Senior Deputy Speaker, Lord Gardiner of Kimble, and that they had agreed to meet on a regular basis in the future.

The Committee noted that the Chair had received letters of apology from Lord Botham and Lord O'Neill of Gatley. The letters of apology were part of the remedial action recommended by the Commissioner for Standards following her investigations into their failure to register their interests correctly.

3. The Conduct of Lord Singh of Wimbledon: appeal by complainant (COND/21-22/01, COND/21-22/02, COND/21-22/03)

The Clerk to the Committee introduced these papers.

The first paper, COND/21-22/01, was the Commissioner's report into the conduct of Lord Singh of Wimbledon, in which she dismissed the complaint of bullying made against him. The second paper, COND/21-22/02, was the complainant's appeal, in which they appealed on the grounds that the Commissioner's finding was "plainly wrong". The third paper, COND/21-22/03, was a paper by the Clerk which summarised the main points of the complainant's appeal.

The Clerk to the Committee would draft a report to be agreed by correspondence. The report would include Appendix I—the emails exchanged between the complainant and Lord Singh—as well as a reminder that members should be polite and respectful in their correspondence.

4. Communications between the Committee and the House (COND/21-22/04)

This paper was introduced by the Clerk to the Committee.

The Committee took note.

Vanessa Davies left the meeting at this point.

5. Content of Commissioner reports (COND/21-22/05)

The Standards Clerk introduced this paper.

The Committee agreed to put the guidance to the new Commissioners before submitting any proposed Code changes to the House. The Committee would invite the new Commissioners to their July meeting, by which time they both would have started. The Standards Clerk would prepare a document to give to the new



HOUSE OF LORDS

**1st meeting
COND/21-22**

Commissioners which would summarise the proposed guidance to be added to the Code at a later date.

6. Steering Group for Change report (COND/21-22/06)

This paper was introduced by the Clerk to the Committee.

This paper set out the issues in the Ellenbogen Review report by the Steering Group for Change which fell within the Committee's remit, including third party reporting, cluster reporting, remedial behaviour change training, reputational damage, Valuing Everyone training and lay membership of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to delay deciding on whether to introduce third party and cluster reporting until the working group had reported, they had discussed the provision for the Clerk of the Parliaments to initiate complaints with the new post-holder and a way forward on the provision of remedial training had been agreed. The Clerk would circulate another paper on the issues raised in the Alison Stanley 18-Month Review which fell within the Committee's remit.

7. Draft report: Further amendments to the Code of Conduct (COND/21-22/07 and 07A)

These papers were introduced by the Standards Clerk.

The Committee agreed the draft report. The report would be published after the new Commissioners had been appointed by the House. The Chair would move the report in the House in June.

8. Any Other Business

The Committee agreed to cancel their meeting on 30 September 2021.

The Committee adjourned.

Tom Wilson
Clerk to the Conduct Committee
X3120