

The Committee on Standards in Public Life

Standards Matter 2: Public Consultation

The Committee on Standards in Public Life is carrying out a landscape review of the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct. The terms of reference for the review are available on our website.

Respondents may want to familiarise themselves with CSPL's map of the UK's standards regulators which is available [here](#).

This consultation runs from 11:00 on the 22 September 2020 to 17:00 on the 18 December 2020.

Anyone with an interest in public standards may make a submission. The Committee welcomes submissions from members of the public.

Replies to this consultation should be emailed to public@public-standards.gov.uk. Further details on how to respond are below.

Consultation Questions:

Question 1: Standards of Conduct in the UK

- A. How well do you think ethical standards - as enshrined by the Seven Principles of Public Life - are upheld in public life today?
- B. Do you believe that there have been any notable shifts in approaches or attitudes to ethical standards in public life in recent years?
- C. What do you see as the most significant threats to ethical standards in public life today?

Question 2: The Seven Principles of Public Life

- A. Do the Seven Principles of Public Life accurately describe the appropriate ethical responsibilities for those in public roles, including both political and non-political office-holders?
- B. Would you amend or replace any of the principles or their descriptors? If so, how?

Question 3: The UK's arrangements for regulating standards

- A. Are you confident that the UK's arrangements for regulating ethical standards are robust and effective?
- B. Are there any areas of public life where regulation on issues of ethical standards is not strong enough?

Question 4: Best practice in standards regulation

- A. What makes an effective standards regulator?
- B. Do the UK's standards regulators have the right powers and remit to act effectively?
- C. Should the independence of standards regulators be enhanced and protected, and if so, how?

Question 5: Creating ethical cultures

- A. How can the Seven Principles best be embedded within a public sector organisation's working culture?
- B. What are the most significant obstacles to embedding high ethical standards in a public sector organisation?

How to make a submission:

Submissions can be sent either in electronic format or in hard copy.

Submissions must:

- State clearly who the submission is from, i.e. whether from yourself or sent on behalf of an organisation;
- Include a brief introduction about yourself/your organisation and your reason for submitting evidence;
- Be in word, rtf, or odt format, not PDF;
- Be concise – we recommend no more than 2,000 words in length; and
- Contain a contact email address.

Submissions should:

- Have numbered paragraphs; and
- Comprise a single document. If there are any annexes or appendices, these should be included in the same document.

It would be helpful if your submission included any factual information you have to offer from which the Committee might be able to draw conclusions, and any recommendations for action which you would like the Committee to consider.

The Committee may choose not to accept a submission as evidence, or not to publish a submission even if it is accepted as evidence. This may occur where a submission is very long or contains material which is inappropriate.

Submissions will be published online with any contact information (for example, email addresses) removed.

The Committee will publish anonymised submissions (where the name of the respondent and any references to named individuals are removed) where a respondent makes a reasonable request to do so.

Submissions sent to the Committee after the deadline of 17:00 on 18 December 2020 may not be considered.

We can only accept submissions via email. Please email your submission to:
public@public-standards.gov.uk

If you have any questions, please contact the Committee's Secretariat by email (public@public-standards.gov.uk). If you have any questions you would prefer to discuss by telephone, please include your contact number in the email.