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published: 14 October 2021 Last updated: 14 October 2021 Meeting summary Date:

Wednesday 21 July 2021 Time: 9:30am to 12:45pm Location: By video conference Date of

next scheduled meeting: Wednesday 22 September 2021 Who was at the meeting Who was at

the meeting John Pullinger, Chair Rob Vincent Alex Attwood Sarah Chambers Elan Closs

Stephens Stephen Gilbert Alasdair Morgan Joan Walley In attendance: Bob Posner, Chief

Executive Craig Westwood, Director, Communications, Policy and Research Louise

Edwards, Director, Regulation Ailsa Irvine, Director, Electoral Administration and

Guidance Kieran Rix, Director, Finance and Corporate Services Binnie Goh, General

Counsel Zena Khan, Senior Advisor, Governance Hannah Kavanagh, Legal Officer (for all

items) Alicia Diaz, Legal and Governance Officer (for all items) Phil Thompson, Head

of Research (for items 4 and 7) Rhydian Thomas, Head, Electoral Commission, Wales

(for item 4) Sarah Mackie, Manager, Electoral Commission, Scotland (for item 4) Katy

Knock, Policy Manager (for items 4, 6 and 7) Tom Hawthorn Head, Policy (for items 5,

7 and CSPL item) David Bailey, Head, Strategic Planning and Performance (for item 5)

Niki Nixon, Head, External Communications (for items 6 and 7) Laura Mcleod, Public

Affairs Manager (for item 6) Mark Williams, Policy Manager (for item 6) Kate Engles,

Policy Manager (for items 6 and CSPL item) Orla Hennessey, Media Relations and Public

Information Manager (for item 7) Andreea Ghita, Senior Communications Officer (for

item 7) Susan Crown, Head, Campaigns and Corporate Identity (for item 8) Dan Adamson,

Head, Monitoring and Enforcement (for CSPL item) Apologies and welcomes Apologies

were received from Commissioner Sue Bruce. The Board noted that Commissioner Sarah

Chambers' appointment to the Commission Board for a second term ending in 2026 had

been confirmed. The Board further noted that the appointment of the new Commissioner

for Northern Ireland, Katy Radford has now been approved by the House of Commons and

subject to timely receipt of the Royal Warrant will start with the Commission on 1

September 2021. Declarations of interest Commissioner Joan Walley declared the end of

her term of office as Chair of Aldersgate Group ending 19 July 2021. The Board noted

that the Commissioners Register of interests would be updated and this reflected on

the Commission's external website in line with the Commissioners Code of Conduct.

Minutes of the previous Board meeting (EC 49/21) Resolved: That the minutes of the

Commission Board meeting on 23 June 2021 be agreed. Reporting on the May 2021 polls

(EC 50/21) The Director, Electoral Administration and Guidance introduced the report

providing information gathered and analysed from voters, campaigners and electoral

administrators which forms an important part of our evidence base for reporting on

the polls, which will be published in September 2021. The Board discussed reviewing

comparable data trends on areas such as turnout and voter confidence. The Board also

discussed the inclusion of narrative in the reporting to provide context around

voting / elections in the context of COVID. The Board noted that we are continuing to

engage at a UK-wide level, through national and regional forums and individually with

local authority chief executives and election teams, to enhance the evidence base

before the reports are finalised. Resolved: That the Board noted the update on

emerging findings from the post May 2021 elections research and the key themes for reporting on the polls, to be published in September 2021. Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2026/27 (EC 51/21) The Chief Executive introduced the draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2026/27 building on the previous discussions on financial strategy at the June meeting. The Board welcomed how the plan was developing and agreed to move forward from previous discussions, with offers of further review of the developing parts of the draft Plan from some Commissioners. Resolved: That the Board noted the draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2026/27 subject to further planned work. Elections Bill Update (EC 52/21) The Director, Communications, Policy and Research introduced the report, providing an overview of the key points and updates since they last met in June and further to the Bill's publication on 5 July 2021. The Board discussed elements of the key provisions, looking at the impact and evidence supporting the Commission's position. The Board welcomed the update and look forward to further updates as work streams develop. Resolved: That the Board noted the update on the Bill and actions arising. Modernising Voting research (EC 53/21) The Director, Electoral Administration and Guidance introduced the report providing the Board with a summary of the key research findings on voters' attitudes to voting and setting out proposed next steps for the project on the feasibility of introducing reforms to the current voting process. Resolved: That the Board noted the update on the research findings and agreed initial next steps on the project. Public awareness plans for scheduled elections in May 2022 (EC 54/21) The Director, Communications, Policy and Research introduced the report providing information on the Commission's plans to deliver its function of providing public information ahead of the next scheduled set of elections across the UK. Resolved: That the Board agreed the plans and budget for the voter registration campaign, identified issues and/or risks that should be taken into account. Governance Matter – Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) membership (EC 55/21) The General Counsel introduced the report providing an update to the membership changes of the Audit and Risk Committee. The Board acknowledged Alasdair Morgan's sound service on the ARC. Resolved: That the Board agreed the appointment of Stephen Gilbert onto the ARC for a three year term from 1 October 2021. Resolved: That the Board agreed the renewal of the Independent Advisor Paul Redfern onto the ARC for a second three year term from 1 November 2021. Commission Board Action Tracker (EC 56/21) Resolved: That the Board noted the progress against actions requested by the Board. Forward Plan of Board business (EC 57/21) Commissioners discussed items of business for future meetings. These would be reflected in the Forward Plan of Board business at the September meeting. Resolved: That the Board reviewed and noted the Forward Plan of Board business scheduling further topics for the next few meetings. At this point the Board concluded their business and this was followed by an informal briefing session on CSPL report recommendations. The Board received a presentation on the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in its report on the regulation on electoral finance law, with initial analysis, led by the Director, Regulation. The Board noted the CSPL report recommendations and thanked the Director, Regulation and the teams.