

Parliamentary Parties Panel minutes: 6 December 2016 | Electoral Commission

Search

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You are in the Party panels section Home How we make decisions Party panels On this page Information Commissioner's Office Q & A Minutes, and actions of the meeting and matters arising (ECPMP 06/09/2016) Assessment process for party descriptions PEF Online redevelopment plans Commission structural changes update Commission update report AOB Actions First published: 6 December 2016 Last updated: 2 September 2019 Who was at the meeting Who was at the meeting Conservative Party: Andrew Stedman (AS) Victoria Carslake (VC) Labour: John Stolliday (JS) Sophie Goodyear (SG) Liberal Democrats (Chair): David Allworthy (DA) Darren Briddock (DB) SDLP Social Democratic & Labour Party: Claire Tighe (CT) Scottish National Party: Scott Martin (SM) Electoral Commission: Bob Posner, Director of Political Finance and Regulation & Legal Counsel (BP) Craig Westwood, Director of Communications and Research (CW) Karim Aziz, Media and Public Affairs Manager (KA) Information Commissioner's Office Q & A Judith Jones (Group Manager – Government and Society) and Sue Markey (Stakeholder relations) from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) conducted a Q & A with the group on a range of matters to do with use of the electoral register and data protection. The group discussed the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will be live in 2018. The ICO noted that their website has a '12 steps to get ready' guidance document and also a microsite with more information. Action: Commission to send a link to the PPP with details of the microsite and the guidance document. The group also discussed that it would be useful for another meeting with the ICO to take place at the September 2017 PPP meeting in preparedness for 2018. Action: Commission to organise meeting. Minutes, and actions of the meeting and matters arising (ECPMP 06/09/2016) The minutes from 06/09/2016 were agreed. It was noted that the Commission's Head of Guidance was not at this PPP meeting to discuss Commission guidance. BP noted that the role was vacant but that hopefully a new Head of Guidance will be in place for the next meeting. BP also gave apologies on behalf of the Chief Executive who could not attend this PPP meeting Assessment process for party descriptions BP referred to the Commission Update Report and that the Commission has been considering how candidates standing for a party are described on election ballot papers and that it should be clear to voters which party the candidate represents. BP noted that in recent years there had been an increasing trend where smaller parties were registering descriptions and it was not clear who the party was. BP informed the group that there was little chance that the UK Government would have parliamentary time to make legislative changes to the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000. This is why the Commission is considering implementing a proposed clarification of the definition of a 'party description' subject to the Electoral Commission Board approving the approach at its February 2017 meeting. Any changes would come into effect after the May 2017 polls. SM commented that regarding the Scottish Parliamentary elections ballot papers, a process took place following the Gould Report, which has meant that the party name has to appear on Scottish Parliamentary elections papers. SM added that an approach may be to look at ballot paper legislation and that it's more likely that the UK Government could find time for a change to secondary legislation rather than primary legislation. DB sought clarification that if the party has to be identifiable from a description, the Welsh version would also be included. BP confirmed that was correct and also noted that for local government and UK parliament constituency elections in Scotland, the party name does not have to appear on ballot papers. BP reminded the group that the Commission would communicate any changes after its Board meeting in February. PEF Online

redevelopment plans BP informed the group that funding had been identified to do scoping work on improvements to PEF Online. The redevelopment should be done hand-in-hand with the main users and that all members of the PPP had a chance to influence the redevelopment of PEF Online. BP also informed the group that there was an opportunity for members of the PPP to be 'super users' and to be a part of the Commission's project board overseeing the redevelopment. It was agreed that SM and DB would act as 'super users' on behalf of the PPP. Commission structural changes update BP explained the make-up of the Commission's 'Party Finance Regulation' (PFR) department and its 'Electoral Administration and Guidance' (EAG) department. BP noted that this included an important change bringing all of its guidance functions into one team. BP noted that changes to the organisational charts on the Commission's website should be made early in the New Year. Commission update report BP noted that regarding item 6 – 'Regulations and Codes of Practice' the Commission would be making some proposals that would be consulted on to the PPP represented parties to enable welcome suggestions to ensure workability. BP singled out the standardisation of accounts where spending and / or expenditure is over £250,000 would be subject to regulations. Members of the PPP raised the issue that in one year an accounting unit may have exceeded that income, for example via a legacy, but then may not ever again exceed that threshold. BP noted that it is possible that the regulations could have some flexibility to them to take into account specific factors relevant for one set of accounts. AS asked if the Commission had had any contact with the Charity Commission who have a process for volunteers to help them meet legal requirements. BP said he would check whether the Commission had liaised with the Charity Commission. BP also noted that the Commission would in 2017 consult PPP represented parties with more details regarding the standardisation of accounts. BP noted that regarding item 7 – 'Principles for the political finance framework' that the Commission was building on the work done in 2011 by the Committee on Standards in Public. This item was just to keep the PPP informed. AOB BP raised the issue of Policy Development Grant (PDG) audits. BP said that whilst the Commission was prepared to conduct audits for the 2016 / 17 allocation, from 2017 / 18, parties would be responsible for conducting their own audits of their PDG spending, through their appointed external accountants / auditors. The parties did have an option to do this for 2016 / 17 if they chose. DA asked if this could be done as part of the changes to Statement of Accounts which need to be audited if they have income / expenditure over £250,000. AS asked if the audits had to be done for the financial year or for the calendar year. BP said that timing for when the audits need to be conducted was driven by the secondary legislation, so it was an issue for the Cabinet Office. Accordingly, it may therefore be possible that a change could align the PDG audit with the Statement of Accounts audits. BP said that the Commission would write to the PPP represented parties with more information about PDG audits. JS asked about an Ofcom consultation proposing to remove the description of 'larger parties'. CW confirmed that the Commission had not yet responded to the consultation. Action: KA to send a copy of Commission response to the Ofcom consultation and share Ofcom contact so members of the PPP can send their own submission if they choose too. The next PPP meeting will take place on Tuesday 21 February at 11am – Conservatives to chair. Actions from December 2016 PPP meeting Action Owner Status EC to send link to ICO 12 steps guidance and microsite KA Sent 9 December 2016 EC to arrange for ICO to attend September PPP meeting KA Invite sent 9 December 2016 EC to send its response to Ofcom consultation to the PPP KA Sent 9 December 2016 Future agenda items Agenda item When Electoral Commission presentation on May 2017 public awareness campaign February PPP Discussion

with Electoral Commission [Head of Guidance] its on its future approach to guidance including 'digitalisation'. February PPP ICO to present update on requirements parties must adhere to in 2018 September PPP Related content Party registration decisions View our decisions on political party names, descriptions and emblems View current applications View the political party names, descriptions and emblems which we are currently considering as part of our assessment process Donations and loans Find out about donations and loans to a political party, individual or other organisation Registers of unincorporated associations Download and view the registers of unincorporated associations