

# United Kingdom

## Committee on Standards in Public Life



**TYPE OF TOOL:**  
*Institutional reform*



**MAIN SECTOR:**  
*All sectors*



**INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS:**  
*Management of threats to integrity*

### In a nutshell:



**OBJECTIVE:** The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across public service life in the United Kingdom.



**Agency in charge**  
**Cabinet Office**



**Levels of government**  
**National**



**Year of implementation:**  
**1994**



**Current status:**  
**Fully operational**

### Overview:

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) is an advisory non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Cabinet Office. The Chair and members are appointed by the Prime Minister. The Committee was established in October 1994, by the then Prime Minister, with the following terms of reference: “to examine current concerns about standards of conduct of all holders of public office, including arrangements relating to financial and commercial activities, and make recommendations as to any changes in present arrangements which might be required to ensure the highest standards of propriety in public life.”

The CSPL thus advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in the United Kingdom. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders. It conducts broad inquiries, collecting evidence to assess institutions, policies and practices, making recommendations to the Prime Minister where appropriate. It promotes the Principles of Public Life, which outline the ethical standards those working in the public sector are expected to adhere to. The Principles apply to all public office holders as well as private and voluntary organisations delivering services paid for by public funds.

The Committee is a standing Committee. Not only does it conduct inquiries into areas of concern about standards in public life, but it also revisits that area and monitors whether and how well its recommendations have been put into effect.

#### REFERENCES:

- Committee on Standards in Public Life, [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life)