

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Date: Wednesday, 20 March 2002  
Time: 9:30am  
Venue: Committee Room 2, National Assembly Building  
Title: Disclosure of Private Proceedings of Committees

The Presiding Officer has expressed concerns about Members disclosing the proceedings of Committees which, under Standing Orders, are to be held in private. He has asked the Committee to consider the issue, as a matter of principle relating to the conduct of Members generally, under Standing Order 16.1 (iii).

He has specifically asked for the Committee's advice on the disclosure of the private proceedings of committees. He has also asked for the Committee's views about invidious criticism of the Presiding Officer's own conduct when carrying out his duties.

The Presiding Officer is not seeking to make an early ruling on this matter and has said that he would have no objections if the Committee thought it appropriate to include this issue in the review which the recently appointed adviser is undertaking.

The Committee may wish to consider this matter alongside its consideration of the request from the Panel of Chairs [STD 01-02(03)] to investigate the unauthorised disclosure of committee reports.

The Committee is invited to consider this matter and advise on the Presiding Officer accordingly.

*Secretariat*