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**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

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20 July 2012

Mark Antoniw

The Committee on Standards in Public Life has recently begun a review of what works best in promoting high ethical standards in public life.

Since the first report of the Committee in 1995, the seven principles established by Lord Nolan have formed the cornerstone of much of the ethical regulation in the UK. Our review is not primarily about the principles themselves, although it will consider their operation and relevance in the context of today. Our objective is to attempt to set down what we now know about the characteristics of those organisations which have high ethical standards, and of those which do not. We also intend to explore some of the dilemmas in this area, for example, between codification and over-prescription, between transparency and misuse of information, and between accountability mechanisms and discouraging the kind of sensible risk-taking which leads to innovation.

As part of our review the Chair, Sir Christopher Kelly and a small number of other Committee members are planning to visit Cardiff on 10 October to meet with organisations and individuals to explore issues relating to ethical standards in specific spheres of public life, including: the National Assembly of Wales, local government the wider public sector, academics and the media.

I am writing to ask whether we might be able to meet with you in Cardiff on the 10 October to explore some of these issues in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, Peter Hawthorne, Assistant Secretary to the Committee on 020 7271 0857 or peter.hawthorne@standards.gsi.gov.uk.

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