

# [Letter to the Prime Minister about the CSPL review of electoral regulation](#)

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## [Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Montenegro – August 2020](#)

Press release

Ms Karen Maddocks has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Montenegro in succession to Ms Alison Kemp.



Ms Karen Maddocks has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to Montenegro in succession to Ms Alison Kemp. Ms Maddocks will take up her appointment in August 2020.

### **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Full name: Karen Louise Maddocks

Married to: Philip Wilson

Children: Two

2017 to 2019 Guangzhou, Consul General

2016 to 2017 Guangzhou, Deputy Consul General

2013 to 2016 Beijing, First Secretary and Head of Science and Innovation Network

2012 to 2013 Full-time Language Training (Mandarin)

2009 to 2012 FCO, Deputy Head of Burma and ASEAN Team

2006 to 2009 Hanoi, Political Officer

2002 to 2006 Roles including FCO Desk Officer for Korea and Mongolia, Pitcairn/British Indian Ocean Territory, and Wellington, Political Officer

1998 to 2002 Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), Teacher Trainer, Anhui Province/ Programme and Recruitment Officer, London

### **Further information**

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## **[Letter to the Chair of PACAC about the CSPL review of electoral regulation](#)**

[unable to retrieve full-text content] Lord Evans informed the Chair of PACAC about the Committee's forthcoming review of electoral regulation.

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## **[Committee on Standards in Public Life announces review of electoral regulation](#)**

The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life has today announced a review of the regulation of elections.

The Committee is starting a [public consultation](#) inviting views on the way donations and campaign expenditure by candidates, political parties and non-party campaigners in election and referendum campaigns are regulated and

enforced by the Electoral Commission, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Police.

Announcing the review, Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Jonathan Evans said:

“Our review will look at what the regulation of election finance should achieve and how it is regulated. That will involve examining the Electoral Commission’s role as a regulator of election finance, along with the work of the police and CPS in this area. We intend to look at electoral regulation from first principles – what really matters in this area? What values and principles should guide regulation of finance during elections?

“Our predecessors on the Committee recommended the setting up of the Electoral Commission in 1998 and last looked at its work in 2007. Since then, digital campaigning has revolutionised the way parties and campaigners engage with voters. It has made it harder to track how much is being spent, on what, where and by whom. This review will look at the system for the regulation of election finance and whether it meets the challenges of elections in the 21st century. We are not reviewing wider aspects of the Commission’s work in this review or looking at how political parties raise funds.

“We are keen to hear from anyone who has experience or views on the regulation of party finance. We particularly want to hear from those with first-hand experience of regulating or being regulated and from third party campaigners. We need your input.

“Fair and free elections are the basic tenet of democracy. Voters should feel confident that campaigners operate on a level playing field and that political finance is robustly, transparently and effectively regulated during elections. We intend to report with any recommendations by June 2021.”

1. Interview requests and media enquiries should go to Maggie O’Boyle on 07880 740627.
2. The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in the UK. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders. To find out more about the Committee’s work go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life>
3. The current members of the Committee are: Lord (Jonathan) Evans KCB DL, Chairman, Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP (Labour), Dr Jane Martin CBE, Dame Shirley Pearce DBE, Jane Ramsey, Monisha Shah, Rt Hon Lord (Andrew) Stunell OBE (Liberal Democrat) and Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP (Conservative).

4. You can follow the Committee on twitter @PublicStandards.

5. The Terms of Reference for the Committee's review into electoral regulation are to:

I. Identify the principles and values that should underpin the regulation of donations and campaign expenditure by candidates, political parties and non-party campaigners in election and referendum campaigns.

II. Examine the Electoral Commission's remit as a regulator of election finance and associated electoral law. This will include consideration of whether the Electoral Commission requires new powers to allow it to fulfil its role as a robust regulator, including powers to compel the provision of documents by third parties such as social media companies, to require greater transparency on party spending on campaign activity and to protect the electoral process from the influence of foreign players.

III. Examine the enforcement regime for election finance offences committed by candidates, parties and non-party campaigners. The review will examine how the civil sanctions regime interacts with the prosecution regime and consider whether it works effectively as a complete system. This will include consideration of the role of the Electoral Commission, the police and the relevant prosecuting authorities in handling breaches of election finance laws.

IV. Consider whether the Electoral Commission should play a role in criminal prosecutions for breaches of election finance laws.

V. Consider whether the Electoral Commission's civil sanction regime should be expanded to cover the enforcement of candidate finance laws, in addition to its current civil sanctions powers that apply to party and non-party campaigner finance laws, under a single regulatory framework for candidates, parties and non-party campaigners.

The following areas are within the scope of this inquiry:

- The regulatory functions and powers of the Electoral Commission
- The relevant functions of the police and the relevant prosecuting authorities

The following issues are outside the scope of this inquiry:

- Matters relating to the arrangements for funding political parties.
- Matters relating to the regulation of elections that are devolved, although where applicable, lessons will be learnt from experiences in the devolved administrations.
- Matters relating to the Electoral Commission's role in overseeing elections and developing public awareness campaigns.

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# Business Secretary launches working groups to help unleash Britain's growth potential

Press release

Business Secretary Alok Sharma is creating 5 new business-focused groups to unleash Britain's growth potential and create jobs, as part of the government's plans to help the economy bounce back from the coronavirus pandemic.



Beginning this week, Mr Sharma will chair the first meetings of new 'recovery roundtables' bringing together businesses, business representative groups and leading academics. They will consider measures to support economic recovery and ensure we have the right skills and opportunities in place for our workforce over the next 18 months.

They will also explore key domestic and global challenges to support a green and resilient recovery and ensure the UK is at the forefront of new and emerging industries.

Focused on 5 key themes, each group will explore how business can work with government to deliver economic growth and jobs:

- The future of industry: How to accelerate business innovation and leverage private sector investment in research and development
- Green recovery: How to capture economic growth opportunities from the shift to net zero carbon emissions
- Backing new businesses: How to make the UK the best place in the world to start and scale a business
- Increasing opportunity: How to level up economic performance across the UK, including through skills and apprenticeships
- The UK open for business: How to win and retain more high value investment for the UK

This initiative builds on the close engagement between the UK's business community, the Business Department and across Whitehall as we have responded to the pandemic.

This includes 5 new ministerial-led taskforces to develop further plans for how and when closed sectors can safely reopen, following the publication of the Prime Minister's roadmap out of lockdown.

Secretary of State for Business Alok Sharma commented:

These roundtables are a redoubling of our efforts to listen to and work with the business community and academic experts as we consider the measures needed to support our economic bounce-back. This will undoubtedly lead to a cleaner, greener, more resilient economy which will create new jobs.

The output from this initiative will feed directly into the government's work on economic recovery and will help deliver the commitments we made to the British people only last December, which now take on an even greater sense of urgency and importance.

## **Notes to editors**

The membership of the 5 working groups will be published in due course.

Each working group, which aims to be representative of UK industry, will consist of approximately 20-25 participants and will be chaired by BEIS Secretary of State Alok Sharma.

There will also be an opportunity for other parties and individuals interested in this initiative to share written submissions with the Business Department.

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