

**THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND**  
Board Meeting

Board Room  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cottons Centre  
Cottons Lane, London SE1 2QG  
16 March 2006  
10.00am – 1.45pm

**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Sir Anthony Holland, Chair  
Patricia Hughes, CBE, Deputy Chair  
Cllr Louise Bloom  
Celia Cameron, CBE  
Peter Chalke, CBE  
Paul Gott  
Elizabeth Hall  
Margaret Pratt  
Paul Sabapathy, CBE  
Professor Judith Simons  
Roger Taylor

In attendance: David Prince, Chief Executive  
Tim Bogan, Communications Manager  
Chris Boothman, Head of Legal Services  
Allister Duncan, Head of Corporate Services  
Kathy Farrand, Head of Referrals Unit  
Lisa Klein, Head of Investigations  
Anne Rehill, Senior Policy Adviser

**ACTION**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the new Board members - Paul Gott, Elizabeth Hall and Judith Simons – to their first Board meeting.

He also thanked those members (Celia Cameron, Peter Chalke and Margaret Pratt) whose terms of office come to an end before the next Board meeting for their contributions. The Chair also thanked Louise Bloom but advised that her term of office may be extended.

The Chair reported that interviews for replacement Board members will be taking place on 25 April 2006 with a view to an announcement being made on 5 May and the new members attending the Board meeting on 17 May.

**06/24 Apologies**  
None

**06/25 Minutes of Board Meeting held on 9 January 2006 (Open Session)**  
The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

**06/26 Matters Arising**  
None.

06/27

## **Declaration of Board Member interests and forthcoming engagements**

The Chair asked all Board members to declare their interests in full for the benefit of new Board members:-

### **Chair:**

Lay Member – Council of the RICS

Chair – Access Dispute Committee

Chair – Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission

Independent Complaints Commissioner – Financial Services Authority

Council tax payer to the Corporation of London and South Gloucestershire

### **Deputy Chair:**

Self-employed consultant mainly undertaking interim management and inspection

Council tax payer to London Borough of Southwark

### **Louise Bloom:**

Cabinet Member – Eastleigh Borough Council (and partner is Leader of council)

Member – Hedge End Town Council

Executive Member – South East England Regional Assembly

Formerly Member of GLA and London Fire Authority

Manages advocacy project for Solent MIND

Louise Bloom also advised that she declares when necessary that her partner is a Hampshire county councillor and that her mother is a parish and district and county councillor in Buckinghamshire

Council tax payer to Eastleigh Borough Council

### **Celia Cameron:**

Former county councillor

Member - East of England Development Agency

Director and Board Member – Age Concern Norwich

Council tax payer to Norwich City Council

### **Peter Chalke:**

Retired. Apart from proposed consultancy with Persimmon Homes has no other interests. Council tax payer to Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire County Council.

### **Paul Gott:**

Self-employed barrister. Treasury counsel. Council tax payer to Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Wealden District Council.

### **Elizabeth Hall:**

Retired on 3 March 2006 from the Financial Services Authority but continues to work on a contract basis part-time.

Appointed by GLA to London Travelwatch

Unpaid member of Queen Mary's University of London research committee.

Chair – Tower Hamlets Church of England Synod

Bishop's Examining Chaplain for Stepney

Governor - St Paul's Way Community School, Tower Hamlets

Council tax payer to LB of Tower Hamlets

### **Margaret Pratt:**

Chair – South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust

Governor – University College of Northampton

Member – CIPFA

Management consultant and specialises mainly in health interests

Council tax payer to Stratford upon Avon District Council

### **Paul Sabapathy:**

Chair and Pro Chancellor – University of Central England

Chair - East Birmingham Primary Care Trust

Chair - Investment Advisory Committee, Advantage West

Midlands Venture Capital Fund

Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts

Member of Lunar Society

Member of HEFCE Accountability Steering Group

Committee Member – Leadership, Management and Governance – Higher

Education Funding Council for England  
Chair – Indian Christian Association of Midlands  
Council tax payer to Birmingham City Council

**Professor Judith Simons**

Pro Vice Chancellor - De Montfort University  
Board member - Leicester Arts  
Governor - Leicester Children's Hospital School  
Higher Education Academy Board member and Chair of Council  
Higher Education Funding Council for England, member of  
Strategic Committee for Leadership, Governance and Management  
Council tax payer to Derbyshire Dales and Leicester City

**Roger Taylor**

Council tax payer: Eden District Council, Birmingham City Council and East Herts District Council.

Employed by Pinnacle Public Services Group which provides a range of housing management services. Runs their consulting subsidiary and works on research elements of the work of the ODPM and in local government. Likely to declare interests with a range of local authorities and also contracts which Pinnacle-psg have. Currently working in Bolton, Salford, Wigan, Derbyshire, Peterborough, London Fire Authority, London Boroughs of Lewisham, Hackney, Lambeth, Newham and Westminster, Oldham, Doncaster, Burnley Essex and Milton Keynes.

The Chair also advised that he attended a dinner at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Monday, 13 March and that he will be talking to chief executives in Northern Ireland about the proposed introduction of a similar standards regime. He had also had meetings with the Leader and Chief Executive of the London Borough of Islington. Roger Taylor advised that, together with the Deputy Chair, he had contributed to the stakeholder event at the City Inn on 22 February. Both were thanked for their contribution to this successful event.

**06/28 Team Briefing**

The Board noted the report. The Communications Manager advised that a new Board champion to lead on team briefing will be required with the departure of Celia Cameron.

**06/29 – Closed items**

**06/37** The Board then went into closed session.

**06/38 Retention Strategy**

The Board accepted the amended Retention Strategy  
The Board agreed that decisions concerning additional retention provision should be delegated to the Board Transition Panel.

**06/39 Assessing the first year of the local investigations regime**

The Board noted the contents of the report and approved the approach for addressing problems arising from local investigations.

**06/40 Code of Conduct for Board Members**

The Board adopted the Code and agreed that alleged breaches by Board members should be referred to the Minister as appointments are made by ODPM.

**06/41 Operational Plan 2006-07**

1. The Board agreed that the Board Legal Proceedings Panel should consider whether appropriate targets have been set for Standards Committees and the Adjudication Panel for England's finding targets.
2. The Board agreed that no change is required to OP9 at this time.
3. The Board agreed that no change should be made at the moment but asked the Board Investigations Panel to monitor the KPI and recommend to the Board any changes required in either the KPI or thresholds.
4. The Board noted the approach being taken to deliver and report on the transition projects.

5. The Board approved the operational plan.

**06/42 Handling allegations during elections**

The Board reaffirmed their position as agreed in previous years that normal procedures will be followed during the run-up to elections, but that this position is adopted subject to the Chair considering any advice received from the Cabinet Secretariat in respect of the upcoming elections.

**06/43 Chief Executive's Report**

The Board received the report. It was noted that the Deputy Chair accompanied the Chief Executive to the meeting with Alison Seabeck MP, not the Chair.

With regard to Panel membership, it was agreed that Elizabeth Hall will join the Audit Committee and the Remuneration Committee; Paul Gott will join the Board Legal Proceedings Panel; Judith Simons will discuss with the Chief Executive which Panels she wishes to join. Celia Cameron, Peter Chalke and Margaret Pratt will be taken off membership of Panels as their terms of office are coming to an end, although, as previously agreed, Margaret Pratt will be continuing in the short term as an independent member of the Audit Committee.

The Board confirmed the revised terms of reference for the Transition Panel.

The Chief Executive reported that a response to the Lyons' memo of evidence is being drafted. The Chair, Deputy Chair and Roger Taylor will see this before submission.

**06/44 Performance against the Operational Plan**

The Board noted the report.

**06/45 Corporate Services Report**

The Board noted the report.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 May 2006 at 10.30am**

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Chair