

ICGS Review 2023

Agreed Terms of Reference

Quality and timeliness

1. Drawing on internal data and external benchmarking data, act as a critical friend to the ICGS Director in her efforts to improve the timeliness and quality of investigations, providing assurance in relation to their initial impact and potential for longer-term improvement.

Confidentiality

2. Consider the role of confidentiality within the Scheme. Specifically, consider how more transparency can be built into the Scheme without compromising the right to confidentiality of all parties to a complaint; and how individual breaches of confidentiality are handled.

Independence

3. Consider how the concept of ICGS independence is interpreted, to ensure an appropriate balance between independence and operational effectiveness.

Governance

4. Make recommendations for how the governance of the ICGS can be clarified and improved. In particular, to consider:
 - a. How decisions are made about changes to the ICGS;
 - b. Clarity and transparency about how the constituent parts of the ICGS and related bodies work together; and
 - c. Clarity and transparency about the relationship between the ICGS, the criminal justice system and political party complaints processes, including the involvement of the party whips.

Scope

5. Consider whether the scope of where and to whom the ICGS applies is sufficiently clear and subject to consistent interpretation.

Resolution outside of the Scheme

6. Share observations with the relevant parties (for example those responsible for culture change or implementing the Speaker's Conference) about how low-level disputes might be resolved outside the Scheme, where appropriate.

Service user experience

7. Consider the experiences of service users, including support available to all parties and the role and skillset of those providing this support