



HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

23 January 2012

House of Lords Appointments Commission – annual report

The House of Lords Appointments Commission today published its annual report covering the period from April 2010 to September 2011 which details its work in selecting and recommending non-party-political peers and in vetting nominees for the House of Lords.

Lord Jay, Chairman of the House of Lords Appointments Commission, said:

“The most significant work by the Commission during the reporting period was its vetting of two lists of party-political nominees; a list which was announced shortly after the general election in May 2010 and a further list which was announced in November 2010. The Commission vetted 113 party-political peers between April and November 2010. The Commission made four recommendations for appointment to the Cross benches during the reporting period.

“During this time, three new party-political members were appointed to the Commission. With the new membership the Commission took the opportunity to take a thorough look at its processes and procedures, including clarifying the criteria for vetting party-political nominees.

“The Commission was also, for the first time, asked to vet nominees appointed to take up ministerial office – a development that they greatly welcomed.”

Ends

Notes to Editors

1. Media enquiries about the work of the House of Lords Appointments Commission should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.
2. The annual report and further information on the Appointments Commission can be obtained from www.lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk.
3. The Appointments Commission is a non-statutory advisory body set up by the Prime Minister to make recommendations for non-party-political peerages. The Commission's remit is to find people of distinction who will bring authority and expertise to the House of Lords. The Commission recommends individuals on merit and their ability to contribute effectively to the work of the House. The House of Lords Appointments Commission has now recommended a total of 59 non-party-political peerages to the Prime Minister, drawn from around 4,700 nominations. The Commission also vets nominations for life peers, including those nominated by the UK political parties, for propriety.
4. The membership of the House of Lords Appointments Commission comprises four independent members: Lord (Michael) Jay of Ewelme GCMG (Chairman), Baroness Jane Campbell, Professor Dame Joan Higgins and Dr John Low and three members nominated by each of the three main political parties: Lord Hart of Chilton (Labour) Rt. Hon. Lord Howard of Lympne QC (Conservative) and Baroness Scott of Needham Market (Liberal Democrat) The Chairman and independent members were selected through open competition.