

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 76th MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2013

Present: Lord Jay (Chairman)
Baroness Campbell
Prof Dame Joan Higgins
Lord Hart
Lord Howard
Dr John Low
Baroness Scott

Clare Salters (Secretary)
Ekpe Attah (secretariat)
Catherine Millington (secretariat)
Maggie O'Boyle (press officer)
Dean Ponder (secretariat)

Minutes of the meetings 74th and 75th meetings

1. The minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2012 and May 9 2013 were agreed.

Chairman's update

2. The Chairman introduced Catherine Millington as a new member of the secretariat.
3. Baroness Hayman had recently reintroduced the House of Lords Reform Bill previously introduced by Lord Steel, which contained provision for the permanent leave of absence of members; the expulsion of members for serious offences; the restriction of hereditary membership; and the creation of a statutory commission, which would have sole responsibility for recommending appointments to the Crown.
4. Dan Byles MP was expected to introduce the Bill in the House of Commons in the autumn as a Private Members Bill, in the hope of receiving cross-party support.
5. The Chairman had accepted an invitation to give evidence to the Commons' Political and Constitutional Reform Committee on 27th June, as part of the Committee's inquiry into the next steps for House of Lords reform. The inquiry was intended to focus on smaller-scale changes to the membership and structure of the Lords that might command a consensus.
6. The advertisement for the next Chairman of the Commission had been published on 7th June and would close on 28th June.

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Freedom of information

10. The secretariat updated the Commission on one ongoing FOI case.

Communications

11. The Press Officer updated the Commission on recent media coverage.

Any other business

12. The Commission agreed to meet again, as scheduled, on 10 July at 1.30pm.

Commission Secretariat
July 2013