

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 71st MEETING HELD ON 28th March 2012

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

Geraldine Alexander (secretariat)
Kate Campbell (secretariat)
Katie Cross (secretariat)
Richard Jarvis (secretariat)
Maggie O'Boyle (press officer)

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Baroness Campbell.

Minutes of 70th meeting (paper 1)

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2012 were agreed.

Chairman's update

3. The Commission had held an information sharing event at the House of Lords on the 8th February. The event was well-attended and the feedback from Peers had been very positive. The Commission may consider holding another similar event in the future.
4. Lord Jay updated the Commission on the progress of the nominations of [REDACTED]. The Commission discussed the matter and agreed that the Chairman should contact the nominees to explain the Commission's position.
5. It was noted that the report of the Joint Committee on Lords Reform would be published on 23 April.

Consideration of HoLAC nominations (paper 2)

6. The Commission discussed [REDACTED] nominations. The Commission agreed that Lord Jay would not be involved in the consideration of [REDACTED] nomination. It agreed that [REDACTED] nominees should be informed that their nomination had not been successful. It further agreed that on reflection, it would not invite [REDACTED] to interview and that [REDACTED] too should be informed that [REDACTED] nomination had not been successful.

7. Following discussion, the Commission agreed that [redacted] nominees ([redacted]) should be retained, with the intention of inviting them to interview in due course, when the position on future appointments was clearer.

UCL research

8. The secretariat briefed the Commission on its work to update the UCL research on the House of Lords' membership.
9. It was agreed that once the tables of statistics were fully updated the Commission would share the information with the Constitution Committee, the Joint Committee on Lords Reform and PASC as well as other interested parties. The tables may also be published on the Commission's website.

Diversity Monitoring (paper 3)

10. The Commission agreed that it should include questions regarding sexual orientation and religious belief in its diversity monitoring of nominees. The secretariat was asked to ensure that the monitoring information could be detached from the nomination form.

Freedom of information

11. The Commission agreed that going forward its minutes should be published on its website. The secretariat was invited to publish the minutes, appropriately redacted, following the meeting at which they are agreed.

Communications

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

Any other business

13. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 31 May 2012.

Commission Secretariat
March 2012