

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 72nd MEETING HELD ON 31 May 2012

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

Geraldine Alexander (secretariat)
Kate Campbell (secretariat)
Katie Cross (secretariat)
Maggie O'Boyle (press officer)
Ekpe Attah

Apologies

1. There were no apologies.

Minutes of 70th meeting (paper 1)

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2012 were agreed.

Chairman's update

3. The appointments of Professor Sandy Trees and Ms Beeban Kidron had been announced on 17 May.
4. The Chairman had received a letter from the Prime Minister's office advising the Commission that, in the context of the discussion about reform of the House of Lords, the Prime Minister would wish it to recommend a maximum of two nominees over the course of a year.

Cycle of nominations (paper 2)

5. In light of the Prime Minister's wishes, the Commission agreed that it would continue to operate its current assessment process, inviting nominations on an ongoing basis. It would, however, now be looking to recommend a maximum of two nominees over the course of a year. It was noted that the Prime Minister had acknowledged and praised the Commission's contribution to the diversity of the House of Lords and it was agreed that it should continue to consider diversity of background and skills as an important factor in its consideration of nominees.

6. The Commission agreed that its website should be amended to reflect the fact that it was being invited to make fewer nominations. The Chairman would also make the Leaders of the main parties in the Lords, the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers, the Lord Speaker and the Constitution Committee Chair aware of this change.

Lords research (paper 3)

7. The update by the secretariat to the UCL research on the House of Lords' membership and in particular the caveats on the data were noted.
8. It was agreed that the updated tables should be published on the website and copies sent to the Constitution Committee and the Convenor of the Crossbench Peers.

Freedom of information

9. The Commission was informed about current FOI cases.

Communications

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

Any other business

11. It was noted that a Peer had approached a member of the Commission about problems he had experienced contacting the Commission's offices. The secretariat was asked to contact him directly.
12. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 18 July 2012.

Commission Secretariat
May 2012