

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 74th MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2012

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

Ekpe Attah (secretariat)
Claire Hanna (secretariat)
Rajvinder Bahia (secretariat)
Maggie O'Boyle (press officer)

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Lord Howard.

Minutes of 73rd meeting (paper 1)

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2012 were agreed.

Chairman's update

3. As agreed, the Chairman had discussed the issues of Peers' attendance and the mentoring of new Peers with Lord Laming, the Convenor of the Cross Bench Peers. Lord Laming had confirmed that all new Cross Bench Peers were offered a mentor. The Chairman and Lord Laming had agreed to have a further discussion about how attendance could be encouraged.
4. A new Secretary to the Commission, Clare Salters, had now been selected after a cross-Whitehall competition. Her first day in post would be 17 December.
5. Since its last meeting, the Commission had vetted Paul Deighton's nomination for a Ministerial appointment to the Lords. As the Government had sought to announce the appointment as part of the reshuffle, the vetting checks had had to be completed very quickly and the Chairman thanked Members for their prompt responses.



Consideration of nominations (paper 2)

7. The Commission discussed the interviews that had taken place during the course of the summer and autumn.
8. After discussion, it was agreed that – once the standard vetting checks had been completed – the Commission would recommend Mr Michael Berkeley and Ms Martha Lane Fox for appointment. The nominations of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would, subject to their agreement, be retained by the Commission for further consideration. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would be informed that their nominations had been unsuccessful.

The Commission's future work programme

10. It was agreed that, when the Commission wrote to the Prime Minister with the two names it had just agreed to recommend for nomination, it would seek clarity as to whether he was still minded to recommend no more than two non-party-political appointees per year, now that the Government had withdrawn its proposals to reform the membership of the Lords.
11. It was also agreed that the secretariat would clarify the process for the selection of a new Chairman and Members in good time before the terms of the current Commission came to an end.

Freedom of information

12. The Commission was informed about two recent FOI cases.

Communications

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

Any other business

14. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 20th March 2013. However, a sub-committee of the Commission would meet before then to consider nominations submitted in the interim. The secretariat would write out with possible dates.

Commission Secretariat
November 2012