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HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 77th MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2013

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

Clare Salters (Secretary)
Ekpe Attah (secretariat)
Claire Hanna (secretariat)
Maggie O'Boyle (press officer)

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Baroness Campbell.

Minutes of the 76th meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2013 were agreed.

Chairman's update

3. The Chairman had appeared before the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (PCRC) on 27 June as part of its inquiry into the possible next steps for House of Lords Reform.
4. The advertisement for the next Chair of the Commission had now closed, and the Government was expected to announce its preferred candidate soon (subject to PCRC's pre-appointment scrutiny).
5. The Secretariat understood that the draft of the Government's Triennial Review of the Commission was still being considered by Ministers.

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Party-political list – vetting discussion

6. As agreed at the previous meeting, the Secretary had alerted the leaders of two parties that the Commission would not be able to support one of their nominations and had given them the opportunity to submit an alternative name before the Commission finalised its formal advice to the Prime Minister.
7. Both party leaders had taken this opportunity and the Commission was now in receipt of two new nominations. The parties had not submitted the names as quickly as anticipated and the vetting checks were still being finalised. The Commission agreed to confirm its final advice to the Prime Minister on the full party-political list via correspondence, after which the Chairman would write to the Prime Minister formally.

Consideration of new nominations to the crossbenches

8. The Commission considered the 25 nominations the Commission had received since March. It agreed, subject to Baroness Campbell's views, to retain the nominations of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They would be written to accordingly, and the remaining nominees would be informed that their nominations had been unsuccessful.

Freedom of information

9. The Secretariat updated the Commission on one ongoing FOI case.

Communications

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

Any other business

11. The next meeting would be on Wednesday 25 September at 1.30pm.

Commission Secretariat
September 2013