

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 78th MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

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

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

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Lord Howard.

Minutes of the 77th meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2013 were agreed.

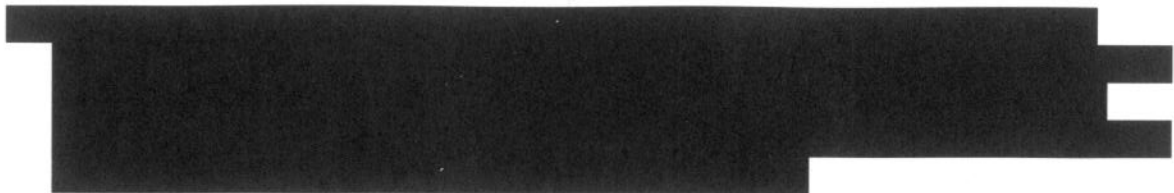
Chairman's update

3. The Chairman welcomed Lord Kakkar, whose appointment as Chairman of the Commission would take effect from 1 October, to the meeting as an observer.
4. The most recent list of party-political peerages vetted by the Commission had been announced on 1 August.
5. The advertisement for the three new independent members of the Commission, in addition to the Chairman, was currently open and would close on 10 October. The Cabinet Office was confident that the new appointments to the Commission would be made by 30 October, when the three current independent members' terms of office ended.

Members' terms of office

6. The Commission noted the paper on members' terms of office. Following discussion, it was agreed that it would be preferable to stagger the appointments of the independent and party-political members, to ensure continuity of Commission membership. The Secretariat would pass the Commission's view on to the Cabinet Office.

Issues emerging from vetting of recent party-political list

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8. The Commission also reaffirmed that it would welcome the publication of the citations produced by the political parties in support of their nominees, as the Committee on Standards in Public Life had recommended and the Commission had supported previously. The Secretariat should press the Government to agree to the publication of full nominees' citations to accompany future party political lists.
 9. Notwithstanding the two points above, the Commission agreed that it was content with its interpretation of its remit in relation to vetting nominees for propriety, including its approach to donors, and that it would continue using this interpretation.

Consideration of new nominations to the crossbenches

10. The Commission discussed 17 nominations for appointment as non-party-political peers. Subject to Lord Howard's views, it agreed that 15 nominees should be informed that their nominations had not been successful, and that two nominees ([redacted]) should be retained for further consideration (along with the ten other nominees the Commission had already agreed to retain).
11. The Commission also agreed that – in light of the forthcoming appointment of a new Chairman and independent members – it would decide which retained nominees to invite to interview when its new membership was in place.

Annual report

12. Subject to certain minor amendments, the Commission was content with the draft report, which was to be published as soon as was practical after the Lords returned from recess in October. If members had any further comments, these would be provided to the Secretariat by the end of September.

Freedom of information

13. The Secretariat updated the Commission on three recent FOI cases.

Communications

14. The Press Officer updated the Commission on recent media coverage. In particular, members noted the adverse comment relating to the presence of party donors on the recent list of party-political peerages.

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Any other business

15. Members thanked the Chairman for his contribution over the previous five years. The Chairman, in turn, expressed his appreciation for his fellow members' dedication and wise advice. Both he and the other members also thanked the Secretariat for its support during this period.

Commission Secretariat
September 2013

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