

HoLAC(14)3rd

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MEETING

Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 1 Horse Guards Road, London

Commission Members

Lord Howard of Lympne, Lord Kakkar (Chairman), Lord Low of Dalston, Professor Gillian Peele, Sir Malcolm Ross and Baroness Scott of Needham Market

Secretariat

Ekpe Attah, Catherine Millington, Maggie O'Boyle and Clare Salters

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Lord Hart of Chilton.

2. Minutes of the last meeting HoLAC(14)2nd

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Sifting crossbench nominations received July to October 2014 (HOLAC(14)07)

30 new nominations had been received since the last meeting. After discussion, the Commission agreed to:

- Retain [REDACTED] nominations, for discussion when shortlisting for interview later in the meeting.
- Retain [REDACTED] nomination for consideration at a later date.
- Inform all other nominees listed at Annexes A, B and C (HOLAC(14)07) that their nominations had been unsuccessful.

4. Research on expertise in the House of Lords (HOLAC(14)08)

The Commission discussed the research about expertise in the House of Lords. They agreed that, like the previous UCL research, it could not form a clear basis for targeting applications. It was agreed to postpone final decisions as to how the research might be used and the format in which it should be published to a future meeting.

5. Shortlisting nominations for interview (HOLAC(14)09)

After discussion, the Commission agreed to:

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- Invite [REDACTED] to interview.
- Inform all other nominees at Annexes A, B and C (HOLAC(14)09) that their nominations had been unsuccessful.

6. Chairman's update

Following the summer's party political list, and the subsequent negative press coverage, the Commission had received a letter from Chi Onwurah MP (Shadow Cabinet Office Minister) about one Conservative nominee. The Chairman had taken the opportunity to respond clarifying the Commission's role in the vetting process, and put the letter on the Commission's website. The response had also been picked up by the Independent.

[REDACTED] The Chairman had then gone to speak to the Crossbenchers about the new definition of Prime Minister's exceptions, which had been set out earlier in the year, and to further clarify the Commission's role. This had been a positive meeting.

7. Freedom of Information

There had been a small flurry of requests for information, mainly related to the Commission's vetting role. Information had been released about the number of appointments the Commission had rejected after vetting, but the reasons for the rejections had been withheld.

The High Court hearing relating to the ongoing Data Protection case would be occurring later in November.

8. Communications

The press officer provided an update on recent media coverage.

9. Any Other Business

Action Point:

- The Secretariat to send out a schedule for the upcoming interviews and to confirm the date of the next meeting [which would take place on the 15th January].

Secretariat
November 2014