

HOLAC (15)3<sup>rd</sup>  
HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

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MEETING

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 at 1 Horse Guards Road, London

**Commission Members**

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

**Secretariat**

Ekpe Attah, Deborah De Beukelaer, Catherine Millington, Maggie O'Boyle, and Clare Salters.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Lord Howard.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting HoLAC(15)2<sup>nd</sup>**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**3. Chairman's update**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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After discussion, the Commission agreed to add [redacted] to the list of names to be submitted to the Prime Minister, along with [redacted].

The Commission had not yet received a dissolution list of appointments to the political benches.

At the January meeting, the Commission had received a letter from [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]

There had been two academic reports related to the work of the Commission published recently. Meg Russell, at the UCL Constitution Unit, had published 'Enough is Enough'. Lord Low had attended the launch. The report criticized what it believed to be the excessively large membership of the Lords, and made recommendations about its size could be reduced. There had been a report from Oxford University, 'Can Donations Buy You a Peerage?' which found a correlation between donations and peerages, but no evidence of causation. It also acknowledged that donors who had received peerages had impressive credentials in any event.

[redacted]

**Action point:** the secretariat to produce a paper about the implications of HoLAC becoming a statutory commission for a meeting in the autumn.

**4. Sifting non-party-political nominations received November 2014 to March 2015 - HoLAC (15)02**

The Commission had received 43 nominations since it last considered crossbench nominations at the meeting in November. The secretariat and a sub-committee of the Commission had sifted them. There were also two nominations who were considered in November, but who had sent in additional information immediately afterwards, before the decision had been communicated to them. These two nominations were also to be reconsidered.

There appeared to have been an increase in the number of nominations made by individuals with significant current or recent party-political activity. The Commission also noted the high percentage of nominations from the health sector.

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Annex C contained the nominations recommended for rejection. After discussion, the Commission agreed to reject all 27 of these nominations:

[REDACTED]

Annex A contained the nominations recommended for retention for further consideration. After discussion, the Commission agreed to retain five:

[REDACTED]

and to reject one:

Annex B contained the nominations recommended for detailed consideration. After discussion, the Commission agreed to retain three: [REDACTED]; and reject nine:

[REDACTED]

**Action Point:** the secretariat to write to the 37 unsuccessful nominees after the end of the pre-election period.

**5. Proposed changes to vetting procedures HoLAC(15)03**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**6. Overview of parties' post-Election plans for Lords reform HoLAC(15)04**

The secretariat had reviewed the political parties' manifestos to note their differing House of Lords reform policies, and their potential to impact on work of the Commission.

**7. Freedom of Information**

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Catherine Millington gave an oral update on recent and ongoing Freedom of Information requests.

It was agreed that the Commission should review its data retention policy in the near future.

**8. Communications**

The press officer, Maggie O'Boyle, gave an oral update on recent media and press coverage.

**9. Any other business**

Clare Salters informed the Commission that [REDACTED]

The Commission would next meet at the end of June or beginning of July.

**Action Point:** the secretariat to confirm the time and date of the next Commission meeting.

**Commission Secretariat**  
May 2015