

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

---

MEETING

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 at 1 Horse Guards Road, London

**Commission Members**

Lord Hart of Chilton, 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, Deborah De Beukelaer, Catherine Millington, Maggie O'Boyle and Clare Salters

**1. Chairman's update**

Since the last Commission meeting, the Chairman had had introductory meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

The Prime Minister had written to the Commission to inform it that he would be extending the criteria against which he nominated distinguished public servants directly to HM The Queen for appointment to the House of Lords. The secretariat had just received one such name for vetting.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting HoLAC(14)1<sup>st</sup>**

The minutes were approved with one correction.

**3. Commission's eligibility/selection criteria relating to party-political independence**

The Commission discussed the appropriate stage of the assessment process at which to test the party-political independence of Crossbench nominees. It was agreed that the Commission's current practice, whereby it retained the flexibility to test party-political independence at any stage of the assessment process – up to and including at interview - worked well and should continue.

**4. Commission's response to Government's new approach to Prime Minister's direct nominations to the Crossbenches**

The Commission discussed the Prime Minister's letter (referred to at 1 above) and confirmed that its role remained to vet such nominations for propriety, not suitability. The Commission also noted, and welcomed the fact, that the Prime Minister remained open to a discussion about the number of recommendations to the Crossbenches that the Commission should make as part of its next list.

**5. Sifting crossbench nominations received April to July 2014**

## HoLAC(14)2nd

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

- Inform those nominees listed at Annex A and B that their nominations had been unsuccessful, except [REDACTED].
- Retain [REDACTED] nomination and the nomination at Annex C.

### **6. Vetting of forthcoming working peers list**

The Commission had received 12 names from the Conservative Party, one from the Democratic Unionist Party, three from the Labour Party, and six from the Liberal Democrat Party.

After discussion, the Commission agreed that none of the names provided cause for concern [REDACTED]. It would inform the Prime Minister of the results of its checks.

### **7. Freedom of Information**

Two new requests for information had been received.

### **8. Communications**

The press officer provided an update on recent media coverage.

### **9. Any Other Business**

#### **Action Point:**

- The Secretariat to confirm the date of the next meeting [which would take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> November].

**Secretariat**  
July 2014