

**HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Fourth Meeting: 1 September 2000**

**Present:**

Lord Stevenson (Chair)  
Baroness Dean  
Lord Dholakia  
Dame Deirdre Hine  
Lord Hurd  
Felicity Huston  
Angela Sarkis

Rosemary Jeffreys (Cabinet Office)  
Maggie O'Boyle (Commission Press Officer)  
Jim Barron (Secretariat)  
Mary Grafton (Secretariat)

**Introduction:**

Apologies were received from Jonathan Tross.

1. Lord Stevenson thanked the secretariat for their hard work. This had resulted in a great deal of progress being made since the last meeting.
2. Lord Stevenson reminded members of plans to arrange a dinner. In addition, he would discuss with the Clerk to the House arrangements to tailor the induction course for new peers to the needs of the independent Commission members. He would also arrange a dinner, after the course, with a number of peers.

**Minutes of the Third Meeting held on 24 July**

3. The minutes of the third meeting were agreed.
4. Jim Barron informed the Commission of the outcome of his meetings with the Inland Revenue. The Inland Revenue would respond to the Commission's formal, written, requests with factual information. The nominee consent form would support this approach and the Revenue had suggested amending it to help meet its statutory responsibilities. The proposed approach to working would be considered by the Inland Revenue Board at its meeting on 5 September. The Commission welcomed the proposals. In discussion, it was noted that it was also important to recognise that the Inland Revenue had statutory powers to obtain information. This might include information given to the Commission by nominees in confidence. If such a case arose, the Appointments Commission would seek legal advice.
5. Lord Stevenson said that the timing of a list of political peers had not been confirmed. However, the Prime Minister had confirmed the position on the special categories of cross-bench peers that would fall outside the Commission's remit. A response was awaited from the Lord Chancellor on the legal appointments.

## **The Appointments Commission and the Law (Paper 1)**

6. Lord Stevenson thanked Rosemary Jeffreys for an excellent paper. He summarised the main points. On the question of

7. On issues of

8. The Commission also requested a further paper on  
Commission members were invited to raise particular concerns with Rosemary Jeffreys.

9. The Commission would welcome advice on  
and also further advice on its responsibilities in complying with

## **The Commission Code of Practice (Paper 2)**

10. The Commission considered the draft Code of Practice and requested a number of changes. The Secretariat would circulate a revised draft. The Commission also discussed the information to be provided in the Commission's Register of Interests. Lord Stevenson would consider the list of categories further.

## **Launch of the Commission (Paper 3)**

11. The Commission discussed advertising for nominations. On balance, it was agreed that the Commission would build on the PR opportunities provided by media coverage of the launch. This would need to include specific arrangements for black and ethnic minority groups and those related to different religious faiths. The Commission requested Maggie O'Boyle to identify those special interest groups that were unlikely to attend the national launch so that separate arrangements could be made to reach them.

12. Advertising would not be ruled out. The Commission agreed to look at this again in the light of the response to their invitation for nominations. Advertising aimed at a wide cross-section of the public would be expensive and the Commission would not wish to commit public money in this way lightly.

13. At the same time as the launch, the Commission would write to organisations inviting them to put forward names and to draw the Commission's invitation to others

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within the organisation at a regional and local level. The list of organisations was at a very early stage and would be developed further.

14. The national launch would be supported by regional events in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and number of major English cities. Lord Stevenson would attend all these events and discuss with Commission members their availability for dates in September and October. These events would not be aimed at the press and other media but informal meetings to brief local people on the Commission's approach to its search for suitable nominations. The Secretariat would draw up a list of "movers and shakers" to be invited to each event.

15. The national launch would be held on Wednesday 13 September at Little Tufton House. Prior to the launch, the Chairman would inform the Prime Minister of the Commission's plans.

#### **The Information Pack (Paper 4)**

16. The Commission considered the draft information pack and asked for a number of changes to be made, including

- the extension of the closing date to Friday 17 November. This would allow nominees a clear two months to prepare their nominations
- making clear that the Prime Minister would determine the number of recommendations to be invited from the Commission for each round and that, on past precedent, the Commission would only be able to put forward a very small number of outstanding nominees
- making clear that nominees should be resident in the United Kingdom for tax purposes.

17. The Commission requested advice on

September 2000