

**HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2001**

**Present:**

Lord Stevenson (Chair)  
Lord Dholakia  
Lord Hurd  
Baroness Dean  
Ms Angela Sarkis  
Mrs Felicity Huston

Mrs Geraldine Alexander (Secretariat)  
Mr Jim Barron (Secretariat)  
Ms Maggie O'Boyle (Press Officer)

**Apologies**

1. Apologies were received from Dame Deirdre Hine.

**Minutes of the Eleventh meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May**

2. The minutes of the eleventh meeting were agreed.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May**

3. The minutes of the vetting meeting were agreed.

**Vetting: request from the Prime Minister**

4. The Commission considered the nomination of [REDACTED] for a life peerage and the checks made to ensure that he met the highest standards of propriety. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5. None of the departments or agencies contacted in the vetting process had any information to suggest that the Commission should not support the nomination. The Commission has accepted as a principle that peers should be resident in the UK, and checks showed that [REDACTED] met this criteria. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Following full consideration of these matters, the Commission concluded that [REDACTED] there was no reason to withhold support from [REDACTED]'s nomination.

6. The Commission agreed to write to the Prime Minister indicating that they were happy to approve the appointment of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

7. It was noted that Lord Stevenson had met [REDACTED] on a few occasions [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. Baroness Dean had also met [REDACTED] in a business capacity and Lord Hurd knew [REDACTED].

### **Lessons learnt from the first round**

8. The Commission considered the paper on lessons learnt from the first round. The Commission generally accepted the recommendations.

### **Next steps**

9. The Commission considered the paper on possible next steps. It was agreed that unless the government indicated otherwise, the Commission would continue "business as usual", albeit operating in a lower key. The Chairman would approach the Leader of the House to seek clarification on the timing of any future rounds.

10. The Commission requested a paper on possible steps it could take to address the perception of its role, particularly with the media.

### **PQ's**

11. The Commission considered the possibility of the Prime Minister responding to an inspired PQ. The Prime Minister was reported to be keen to set the record straight following the negative reaction to the Commission's first list. It was agreed that the PQ should clarify the Commission's actual role as distinguished from the media perception of "people's peers". The Commission requested a PQ to be drafted for their consideration.

### **Annual Report**

12. It was agreed that the Commission should produce an annual report. Further revision would be given to the drafts in due course.

### **Financial report**

13. The financial report for the financial year ending March 2001 was noted.

### **Complaints**

14. The Commission was pleased to note that only two formal complaints had been received. In particular, the Commission was pleased to note that none of the complaints was about the leaking of personal information.

### **Any other business**

15. It was agreed that the Commission has an interest in any draft legislation on the second stage of reform of the House of Lords. The Commission would be willing to offer comments to any consultation on the reform.