

**HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2001**

**Present:**

Lord Stevenson (Chair)  
Lord Dholakia  
Lord Hurd  
Dame Deirdre Hine  
Mrs Felicity Huston

[REDACTED]  
Mr Jim Barron (Secretariat)  
[REDACTED]

**Apologies**

1. Apologies were received from Baroness Dean and Mrs Angela Sarkis.

**Minutes of the Tenth Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February**

2. The minutes of the tenth meeting were agreed.

**Looking back**

3. The Commission discussed the media reaction to its list. It was agreed that the "people's peers" perception of the Commission's remit had been difficult to overcome and that there was very little which could have been done to avoid the media concentrating on this angle. It was suggested that the next list should be announced without a press briefing. This would allow the quality of the people chosen to stand out as the main discussion point.

4. The Secretariat staff observed some of the lessons they had learnt from the first round. This included additions to the information pack and nomination form, communication with nominees and the use of the website. The Commission requested a paper on this topic for a future meeting.

**Looking forward**

5. The Commission will be receiving a Dissolution List from the Prime Minister in the near future. All the nominees will be retiring Members of Parliament. The Commission was mindful of the need to carry out the vetting process as quickly as possible while ensuring that all necessary checks are made. Consent forms will need to be signed by each individual to allow the Commission to undertake vetting. The Commission agreed that in this instance Chief Whip certificates regarding political

donations would not be required as a matter of course, though it reserved the right to seek further information about an individual if necessary.

6. The Commission agreed to meet to discuss the list when the vetting process has been completed.

#### **Nominations and self-nominations**

7. The Commission noted that the current nomination form would need to be revised to allow for nomination by others as well as self-nomination. The Secretariat would draft some changes to be considered by the Commission.

8. Further publicity regarding this change would be considered after the General Election. The Chairman will be writing to the Permanent Secretaries of all Departments thanking them for their support in the first round and informing them of the new nominations process.

9. [REDACTED]

#### **Data Protection Act**

10. The Commission considered the paper on the Data Protection Act. As a "data controller" the Commission needs to be registered with the Information Commissioner. At present the Cabinet Office is registered but this only covers the Secretariat staff. It was agreed that the Secretariat should explore with the Information Commissioner the possibility of joint registration between the Commission and the Cabinet Office.

#### **Complaints**

11. Consideration of the paper was postponed until the next meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat should continue to respond to correspondence within 15 days of receipt. Standard replies to complaints have been drafted and will be circulated to all Commission members.

[REDACTED]  
May 2001