

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION
Minutes of the Eighth Meeting: 9 January 2001

Present:

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

Mrs Geraldine Alexander (Secretariat)
Mr Jim Barron (Secretariat)
Mrs Mary Grafton (Secretariat)
Mr Richard Heaton (Cabinet Office)
Mr Tim Hunt (Cabinet Office)

Introduction:

1. Apologies were received from Baroness Dean, Jonathan Tross and Judith Simpson.

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting held on 23 November (Paper 1) and the Seventh Meeting held on 18 December.

2. The minutes of the sixth meeting were agreed. The minutes of the seventh meeting would be considered at the Commission's next meeting.

Legal Advice on

Paper 2)

3. The Commission noted and thanked Richard Heaton for his paper.

Arrangements for Short List

4. In accordance with the Commission's agreed Code of Practice, Commission members would complete and sign a form for each nominee in Bands A, B and C that was personally known to them. A complete list of all nominations received by 17 November would be provided for Commission members at the next meeting.

5. Short-listed nominees had been placed in Bands A, B or C following assessment by Commissioner sift teams. The bandings did not imply that individual nominees would be placed on the Commission's first or future lists of recommendations. Decisions on recommendations would be taken following further discussion and assessment of the nominees, taking into account information obtained from the take up of references and interview.

6. The Commission agreed to transfer the following numbered nominations - B28,B32,C52,C86,C99,C117,C143,C146 and C149 - into Band A and to consider including C80. The Commission also discussed nominations B37 and B59.

Take of Up of References and Interviews

7. The Commission noted the chairman's memorandum of 8 January. The invitation to interview would need to be drafted very carefully to avoid raising undue expectations and to emphasise that the Commission was looking to develop a pool of outstanding people that it might recommend over the next few years. The invitation would also emphasise the need for confidentiality. A framework would be developed to support interviews. This would be a structured but flexible approach to help ensure consistency and fairness so that no nominee was disadvantaged, whilst taking into account the needs of the House.

8. The Commission would also begin to follow up references for those to be invited for interview at this stage. The approach would be tailored to take account of where nominees had already provided references and to draw out further information as to how nominees met the Commission's criteria. Letters to referees would also stress the importance of confidentiality. The Commission requested legal advice on

The Commission would also consider following up references for the following nominations: B7, B16 and B49.

Discussion of Band A nominees

8. There was discussion of the nominees in Band A. It was decided to follow up references and invite for interview the following nominees: A2, A4, A5, A6, A8, A10, A11, A12, A14, A15, A18, A19, A20, A21, A22, A23, A25, A26, A28, A29, A30, A31, A32, A34, A37, A38, A39, A41, A42, A45, A46, A47, A48, A50, A53, A54, A56, A58, A61, B32, C86, C143 and C146. Other nominees would not be invited to interview at this stage. However, the Commission would take up references for nomination A62.

Review of Sifting Arrangements

9. Commission members would undertake further random checks on those nominations sifted out at the first stage. The Chairman would also look at all nominations received by 17 November and welcomed the participation of other members in this review.

January 2001