

**HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Thirteenth Meeting: 14 November 2001**

**Present:**

Lord Stevenson (Chair)  
Lord Hurd  
Lord Dholakia  
Ms Angela Sarkis  
Dame Deirdre Hine

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

**Apologies**

1. Apologies were received from Baroness Dean and Mrs Felicity Huston.

**Minutes of the twelfth meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September**

2. The minutes of the twelfth meeting were agreed.

**White Paper**

3. The Commission discussed the White Paper on further reform of the House of Lords. The praise of the work of the Commission in the White Paper was noted.
4. It was agreed that the Commission should contribute to the consultation on the White Paper in the areas where its practical experience could be helpful. Although members individually may have views on the wider aspects of the reform, it would not be appropriate for the Commission to comment on these. The Commission requested that the Secretariat draft an outline response to the White Paper.

**PQ**

5. The Commission agreed that it needed a clear written answer from the Prime Minister, affirming the Commission's role and approach to its task, before it could embark on a further round of nominations. This would serve not only to affirm publicly the Commission's role but also would assist the profile of the Commission's first appointees in the House.
6. The Chairman would draft a reply to the PQ and circulate it to members for comment.

### **Annual Report**

7. It was agreed that the annual report would not be published to coincide with the PQ, as previously suggested. The content of the report may change depending upon the answer the Prime Minister gives to the PQ.

### **Action points**

8. It was agreed that the action points outlined in the paper should not be pursued until the Prime Minister has answered the PQ.
9. The Commission noted the enclosure of a draft revised information pack. Any comments on the content of the draft should be passed to the Secretariat.

### **Finance**

10. The Commission noted the finance paper and agreed the suggested budget for 2002/03.

**Geraldine Alexander**  
**15/11/01**