

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 22ND MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2003

Present: Lord Stevenson (Chairman)
Baroness Dean
Lord Dholakia
Dame Deirdre Hine
Mrs Felicity Huston
Lord Hurd

Mr Jim Barron - Secretary
Ms Geraldine Alexander - Secretariat
Mr Ekpe Attah – Secretariat
Ms Beth Watson - Secretariat

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Mrs Angela Sarkis.

Minutes of the twenty-first meeting of the Commission

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2003 were agreed.

Chairman's Update

3. The Chairman informed the Commission that he would be meeting with the Lord Chancellor – at Lord Falconer's invitation - regarding the Government's Consultation Paper on the reform of the Lords.

Vetting

4. The Commission had not yet received the list of political nominees from the Government. It was agreed that the list would need to be given careful consideration and no corners should be cut in the vetting process in order to meet deadlines. The Chairman would be writing to the Permanent Secretaries of the Departments involved in vetting to emphasise the importance of the process and their role in it.

Government's consultation

5. The Commission considered the paper on the proposed response to the Government's consultation on the reform of the House of Lords. It was agreed that the Commission would not provide a formal response.

Discussion of names

6. It was agreed that the Commission would aim to finalise its list before Christmas, although any announcement would not be until the New Year. The Commission

agreed that it would announce its names at the same time as the party-political peers were announced.

7. The Commission considered the number of recommendations it would make in the next list. It concluded that it would seek to make between four and six – on the basis that this would probably be proportional to the size of the political list – although it may change if the number of party-political peers was substantially higher or lower than anticipated.
8. The Commission considered the Chairman's proposed groupings of nominees. It was agreed to:
 - Remove five nominees from the list: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
 - Keep nine nominees on the long list: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (to be re-interviewed), [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
 - Keep twelve nominees on the short list, two of whom it is taking extremely seriously ([REDACTED], [REDACTED]). The other ten were [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
9. Before it finalised its list, the Commission wished to meet again with the holdover nominees on its short list. It was agreed that interviews should be held for the six holdovers ([REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]) before the next Commission meeting on the 16th December.

Commission Secretariat
December 2003