

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2003

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

Ms Geraldine Alexander - Secretariat
Mr Ekpe Attah – Secretariat
Ms Beth Watson - Secretariat

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Lord Hurd.

Minutes of the twentieth meeting of the Commission

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2003 were agreed.

Chairman's Update

3. The Chairman explained that he, Lord Hurd and Dame Deirdre had categorised the 166 'Go-forwards' as A*, A, B or C. The list of 19 A* nominees had already been circulated to the other Commission members. Once a final shortlist had been agreed, the A* nominees would be invited to interview within the next 6 weeks. A list of the other nominees and their categories would be circulated to Commission members for their views in due course. The A and B nominees would then be invited to interview during the first 6 months of next year.
4. Nominees who had been interviewed during the first round would not be interviewed again but a number would be considered alongside the new interviewees, as might a small number of other candidates whom it was felt it would be wrong to interview at this stage.

Ethnic Minority Nominees

5. It was noted that there were few ethnic minority nominees on either the A* list or the list of 'Go-Forwards'. It was agreed that Lord Dholakia and Angela Sarkis would meet to examine the nominations from ethnic minority nominees received in the second round.
6. It was agreed that at a future meeting, the Commission would consider ways in which it could be more proactive in encouraging nominations from ethnic minorities.

Future Parliamentary Business

7. The Commission felt that it would be helpful when considering its recommendations, if it were aware of the forthcoming legislative programme or of any important issues that were likely to arise in the House in the near future.
8. The Secretariat would draw up a brief summary of issues that were likely to be discussed in the House and circulate it to Commission members.

Nominations

9. The Commission discussed the nominations from [REDACTED] and agreed that [REDACTED] was a very strong candidate. He was a holdover who was interviewed in the first round and the Commission would consider whether to re-interview him or invite him for a more informal discussion. It was agreed that, in future, nominations from [REDACTED] would be assessed in the same way as all other nominations as the strongest nominees would rise to the top on their own merits.
10. The Commission considered the 19 A* nominees, who would be interviewed within the next 6 weeks. It was decided to remove [REDACTED] and that they would be placed on the C list. [REDACTED] would also be removed but would be interviewed within the next 6 months.
11. The Commission agreed that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] should be added to the A* shortlist.
12. Annex A shows the revised A* list. The Secretariat would write to nominees to arrange interview times and would provide the Chairman with a copy of the format used for interviews conducted in the first round.
13. Lord Stevenson and Dame Deirdre would collate their lists of A, B and C nominees and circulate to the other Commission members for their views.

**Commission Secretariat
October 2003**

ANNEX A

Revised shortlist of A* nominees to be interviewed within the next 6 weeks

[REDACTED]

Nominees removed from original A*

[REDACTED]