

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004

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

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

**Apologies**

1. Apologies were received from Lord Hurd.

**Minutes of the twenty-third meeting of the Commission**

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2003 were agreed.

**Discussion of names**

3. The Chairman had contacted the PM's Chief of Staff to tell him that the Commission was minded to put forward a list of six or seven names to the PM, and to seek an indication as to whether the PM would be agreeable to this. The Chief of Staff's initial reaction had been favourable, although the PM's approval would have to be obtained. Number 10 would then confirm this with the Chairman.
4. Regarding the vetting of the nominees on the proposed list, it still remained to clarify certain issues, and this would be done as soon as possible.

**The PM's exceptions**

5. In conversation with Number 10, the Chairman had pointed out that neither of the people the PM was considering recommending for peerages fell into the category of former officeholders who might be appointed to the Lords automatically under the DCA's proposals for the next stage of Lords reform. They had also not been mentioned in his letter to the Commission.
6. The PM's Chief of Staff had accepted that – in the interim period before the DCA's proposals were enacted – it would be desirable to define more tightly the circumstances in which the PM might recommend people under his own initiative. Officials in Number 10 were working on a scheme to this effect, and they would keep the Commission abreast of developments.

7. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Number 10 again to stress the need for clarity - both on the number of the PM's "exceptions" and on the criteria used to select them.

**List of working peers**

8. The list of nominations, and supporting papers, for new party-political peerages had been received at the Commission's offices.
9. It was agreed that, when advising on the propriety of a nominee who had donated a substantial sum to the party in question, the Commission would need to be convinced that the person would still have been nominated if he or she had not made a donation.
10. The Commission agreed that each member would review the papers for the nominees and let the Chairman or the Secretariat know of any concerns.

Commission Secretariat  
February 2004