

**HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2004**

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

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

**Apologies**

1. Apologies were received from Mrs Angela Sarkis.

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

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2004 were agreed.

**Chairman's update**

3. The Chairman had met the Clerk of the Parliaments on 17<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting had been productive. He had discussed with the Clerk the possibility of writing to the Senior Salaries Review Body setting out the issues that had been raised by ██████████'s appointment. The Commission would consider writing to the SSRB, depending on the outcome of the forthcoming House of Lords debate on the SSRB's recent review of parliamentary pay and allowances.
4. It was possible that the expected announcement of the two new party-political peers would be postponed due to the delay in the finalisation of the new European Commission.
5. The Today programme planned to conduct a Christmas listeners' poll to choose a nominee for a non-party-political peerage. The Commission agreed that although it would co-operate with the programme makers where possible, it would not be appropriate for the Commission to participate in the launch of the poll. It would also be necessary for the Today programme to make it clear that the winner of its poll would be treated like any other nominee and there was no guarantee that the Commission would recommend him or her for appointment.

6. The Secretariat had written to the Cabinet Office Ceremonial Secretariat telling it that, subject to the Commission being able to determine its own working arrangements, it would be content to assume the work of the Honours Scrutiny Committee in scrutinising names put forward by the Prime Minister. The Secretary would also speak to the Secretary to the HSC to ensure that there was no ambiguity on this point.

**Timing and numbers of recommendations**

7. The Commission confirmed that it would make a small number of recommendations at regular intervals in future, probably two or three each quarter.

**Prioritising interviews**

8. The Commission considered the paper on prioritising interviews. It was agreed that the Commission would decide who to interview by prioritising the short listed nominations according to which ones it considered the most likely to recommend for appointment. It would aim to interview 10 to 12 individuals a month.

Commission Secretariat  
October 2004