

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING HELD ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2005

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

Mr Jim Barron - Secretariat
Ms Geraldine Alexander - Secretariat
Mr Ekpe Attah – Secretariat
Ms Maggie O’Boyle - Secretariat

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Baroness Dean.

Minutes of the twenty-eighth meeting of the Commission

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2004 were agreed.

Chairman’s update

3. The Commission had received a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for a copy of the minutes of all Commission meetings.
4. The Chairman had written to the Senior Salaries Review Body. A copy of his letter, together with the reply from the Chairman of the SSRB would be circulated to the Commission.

Development of the vetting policy

5. The Commission considered the paper on the development of the vetting policy. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Party Chairman to provide a certificate instead of the Chief Whip. The Commission also agreed that it would continue to insist on UK residency when considering party political nominees.
6. The Commission invited the Secretariat to draft a detailed vetting policy, which would, in due course, be circulated to the parties.

Honours Scrutiny Committee

7. The Commission had received confirmation from the Prime Minister that it would be asked to carry out the vetting of Prime Ministerial additions from the 2005 Birthday Honours list.
8. The Secretariat was invited to develop a process for the vetting of the honours names, to be presented to the Commission at its next meeting.

Numbers and timing of further recommendations

9. The Commission agreed that it would seek to make a small number of recommendations in the next few weeks. It hoped to be in a position to make further recommendations in the summer and autumn. The Commission reconfirmed that it would make only two or three recommendations at a time.

Discussion of names

10. The Commission had received a number of very good references for a nominee, [REDACTED]. It was agreed that his nomination should be retained and considered for interview later in the year.
11. The Commission considered its shortlist of nominees. It was agreed that its next recommendations would be [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. However, the Chairman would speak to [REDACTED] before passing his name to the Prime Minister to ensure that he had enough time available to contribute to the House.
12. The Commission agreed that it should obtain an update on two nominees: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This would assist it in its deliberation of their nominations for future recommendations.

Commission Secretariat
February 2005