

**HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2006**

**Present:** Lord Stevenson (Chairman)  
Baroness Dean  
Lord Dholakia  
Mrs Felicity Huston (by telephone)

Mr Jim Barron – Secretariat  
Ms Geraldine Alexander – Secretariat  
Mrs Paula Adshead – Secretariat  
Ms Louise Blundell – Secretariat  
Ms Maggie O'Boyle – Media Adviser

**Apologies**

1. There were apologies from Lord Hurd and Ms Sarkis.

**Minutes**

2. The minutes of the meeting of 4 October 2006 were taken forward to the next meeting of the Commission.

**Chairman's update**

3. Number 10 had announced the appointment to the House of Lords of the former Chief of Defence Staff, Sir Michael Walker. It was noted that this was the fourth time the Prime Minister had used his exception in this Parliament.
4. The Commission had completed a review of its response to a freedom of information request. It was now dealing with a new request from the same person.
5. The Commission had consulted HMRC regarding the tax status of Lord Laidlaw. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Lord Laidlaw inviting him to a meeting to discuss the way forward.

**Reappointment of members**

6. The Commission members had not received a formal letter from the government regarding their terms of appointment. It was noted that as things currently stood, all members' terms would finish at the end of the month.

**Names, numbers and timing**

7. It had been agreed with Number 10 that the Commission would be recommending six individuals. Subject to the views of Lord Hurd and Ms Sarkis, it was agreed that the Commission would recommend [REDACTED]. The Commission would carry out further

enquiries on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] before it decided whether to recommend either or both of these nominees in the current list. (If the Commission was satisfied with the outcome of its enquires into both nominees, it would consider putting seven names to the Prime Minister.)

8. It was agreed that [REDACTED] would be considered - alongside other nominees - for the next list of recommendations, probably in the spring 2007.
9. The Commission invited the secretariat to draw up a timetable for an announcement of names before Christmas.

#### **Regionality**

10. The Commission considered the statistics on the regional origin of its nominees. It was agreed that it would be helpful for these figures to be seen in comparison with the regional spread of the UK population. The secretariat would collate and then circulate these statistics.

#### **Future work**

11. The Commission would consider its future work when the terms of appointment of its members were clarified.

Commission Secretariat  
December 2006