

## HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THE 63<sup>rd</sup> MEETING HELD ON 3 November 2010

Present: Lord Jay (Chairman)  
Baroness Dean  
Lord Dholakia  
Lord Hurd  
Dr John Low

Geraldine Alexander (secretariat)  
Matthew Carey (secretariat)  
Richard Jarvis (secretariat)  
Maggie O'Boyle (press officer)

#### Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Baroness Campbell and Prof Joan Higgins.

#### Chairman's update

2. Lord Hunt of Wirral's interim report on retirement from the House of Lords was published today. It will be debated in the House on 16 November.
3. The Chairman noted that it was the last Commission meeting for Lord Hurd, Lord Dholakia and Baroness Dean. He thanked them for their contribution to the work of the Commission. No formal notification had yet been received as to who would be appointed in their place.

#### Consideration of nominees (paper 2)

4. The Commission was reminded that it had previously been agreed that Lord Dholakia would not participate in the consideration of [REDACTED] nomination and that Lord Jay would not participate in the consideration of [REDACTED]
5. The Commission considered the updates to both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] nominations. It agreed that its decision on both nominations remained the same.

#### Vetting of party-political nominees

6. The Commission noted that it had received returns from departments and agencies on all nominees. The secretariat checks had also been completed and the necessary paperwork received for all nominees. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Party Leaders reminding them of the need for complete paperwork to be submitted.
7. The Commission considered general issues raised by the lists, and discussed its approach to matters including significant party donors and the rehabilitation of offenders. It also

considered its published vetting criteria, in particular the effect of a nomination on the reputation of the House of Lords and the appointments system.

8. The Commission considered each nomination on the Conservative Party and Labour Party lists in turn. Although no member asked to stand aside from the consideration of a nominee, it was noted that [REDACTED] Both Lord Jay and Lord Hurd declared that [REDACTED] was a friend and former colleague; in both instances the Commission agreed that the members should participate in the consideration of his nomination.
9. The Commission concluded that in the case of [REDACTED] nominees the process had not revealed anything that would, in its view, make the nominee unsuitable for appointment on the grounds of propriety. [REDACTED]

10. In reflecting on its advice on the Liberal Democrat nominees, [REDACTED]

11. It was agreed that the letter to the Prime Minister should raise the issue of the size of the list and the likelihood of the number of new peers giving rise to adverse comment. A draft letter would be circulated to Members before it was sent to the Prime Minister.

#### **Communications**

12. The press officer updated the Commission on recent press enquiries.

#### **Any other business**

13. There was no other business.