

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 66th MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 2011

Present: Lord Jay (Chairman)
Baroness Campbell (from item 5)
Lord Hart
Prof Dame Joan Higgins
Lord Howard
Dr John Low
Baroness Scott

Geraldine Alexander (secretariat)
Richard Jarvis (secretariat)
Maggie O'Boyle (press officer)
Roger Sampson (secretariat)
Navita Seedhar (secretariat)

Apologies

1. There were no apologies, although it was noted that Baroness Campbell would not be present for the items 1 to 4 on the agenda.

Minutes of 65th meeting (paper 1)

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2011 were agreed, subject to some small changes in paragraph 7.

Chairman's update

3. The Commission was briefed on the new structure of its secretariat. It was noted that the secretariat resource would be shared with another Cabinet Office NDPB, the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments.
4. The Chairman had spoken with the Committee for Standards in Public Life on 17 March, in connection with the Committee's enquiry into Party-political funding.
5. The Chairman and secretariat had attended a meeting with Vijay Rangarajan, the Director of Political and Constitutional Reform in the Cabinet Office, to discuss Lords Reform.
6. The Commission noted the report on Lords appointments by Meg Russell of the Constitution Unit, UCL.
7. The Commission had received a further letter from [REDACTED]

8. The Commission discussed the suggestion by [REDACTED] should be nominated. It was agreed that it was unlikely that the Commission would recommend him at the present time and that it may be more appropriate for the Prime Minister to consider him as one of his ten exceptions. It was agreed that the Chairman would speak to [REDACTED]

Review of the Commission's processes – the vetting criteria for party-political nominations (paper 2)

9. The Commission considered the paper on the review of its vetting criteria, which it noted was part of a wider review of its operations. It was agreed, following discussion, that further thought needed to be given to the matter and the secretariat was invited to put a further paper to the Commission at its next meeting.

Consideration of HoLAC nominations (paper 3)

10. The Commission considered the nominations of eight individuals who had been interviewed recently. The Commission noted that Lord Jay would not be involved in the consideration of either [REDACTED]'s nominations. It was also noted that Lord Howard would not be involved in the consideration of [REDACTED] nominations.
11. The Commission agreed that it would not be recommending three of the nominees for appointment ([REDACTED]). The Commission would write to them to inform them that their nomination had not been successful.
12. The Commission then considered the remaining nominees. It was agreed that it was likely to recommend [REDACTED] for appointment and that [REDACTED] was a strong candidate. The meeting concluded at short notice due to a division of the House. It was therefore agreed that the Commission would return to its discussion of the interviewed nominees at a future meeting. At the same meeting it would give consideration to the number of recommendations it wished to make and the timing of the list.

Commission Secretariat
May 2011