

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 49TH MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2008

Present: Lord Stevenson (Chairman)
Ms Angela Sarkis
Baroness Dean
Lord Hurd
Lord Dholakia
Mrs Felicity Huston (by phone)
Ms Geraldine Alexander - Secretariat
Dr Richard Jarvis – Secretariat
[REDACTED] – Secretariat
Ms Maggie O’Boyle - Secretariat

Apologies

1. There were no apologies.

Minutes

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2008 were agreed.

Chairman’s update

3. The Cabinet Office had advertised for a new Chairman and Members. It was understood that the shortlisting for the post of Chairman would be taking place in the next few weeks. Once the new Chairman was identified, he or she would sit on the panel to recruit the members. The Cabinet Office had been reminded that the political members’ terms also finished at the end of the month. The Commission wondered whether there was a need for the current members to remain in post for a short time until the new members were appointed. It was agreed that the Cabinet Office should be invited to write to the Commission setting out a clear, realistic timetable for the new appointments, and to address the timing of the end of the current Commission members’ terms.
4. [REDACTED] had written to the Commission, seeking confirmation that his nomination was handled in line with the Commission’s processes. The Chairman had replied to his letter, and copies of the correspondence had been circulated to members.

Freedom of Information

5. The Commission was updated on the case that had been referred to the Information Tribunal. The Secretariat had taken Counsel’s advice on the matter.

Next list

6. The Prime Minister had indicated that he would invite the Commission to make a small number of recommendations, which would be announced in September.
7. It was agreed that the Commission would recommend three individuals for appointment. Subject to the final vetting checks, they would be [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. However, it was agreed that [REDACTED] would be invited for a second interview with the Chairman and another member before his name was put forward. (Lord Dholakia informed the meeting that he was not aware, until his interview, that [REDACTED]. It was noted that since the Chairman was a longstanding friend of [REDACTED] he had taken no part in the decision to appoint [REDACTED].
8. The Commission would publish its last annual report in September, to coincide with the announcement of its last list. The report would be an account of the entire life of the Commission, as well as the last year.

Legacy

9. The Commission agreed that it would seek to reduce its list of holdovers in the next few weeks.

Commission Secretariat
June 2008