

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 61st MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2010

Present: Lord Jay (Chairman)  
Baroness Campbell  
Baroness Dean  
Lord Dholakia  
Prof Dame Joan Higgins  
Lord Hurd  
Dr John Low

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

**Apologies**

1. No apologies received.

**Minutes of 60th meeting of the Commission**

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 26 May were agreed.

**Chairman's update**

3. The Chairman had spoken to Jeremy Heywood at Number 10 as agreed at the last Commission meeting. Two key issues were confirmed: the Commission would receive further party-political nominations for vetting, and it was understood that the Prime Minister would be content to receive one further list of 2-3 non-party-political recommendations before the end of the year. The Commission also noted that an issue for future consideration would be the transfer of nominations should a statutory Commission be formed. The Chairman would meet with the Leaders of the political parties to encourage due diligence in the selection of peers.
4. The Commission noted that following an offer from the Prime Minister to Plaid Cymru nomination papers for [REDACTED] had been received for vetting.
5. The Chairman updated the Commission on the vetting of the last list of party-political peerages [REDACTED]
6. The Chairman circulated a copy of a letter he had received from [REDACTED] outlining concerns about former MPs with controversial expenses claims being offered seats in the House of Lords. The Commission discussed the letter and agreed the terms of a response.

7. The Chairman updated the Commission on progress on House of Lords reform and the various committees that had been established.
8. The Chairman updated the Commission on the system for Members' expenses that had been proposed by the Leader of the Lords.
9. The Commission noted that following the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act five peers had chosen to resign from the House of Lords not wishing to be deemed domiciled in the UK for tax purposes.
10. The Chairman had spoken at a meeting of Crossbench peers on 16 June. In the coming weeks he would be meeting with the Party leaders in the Lords and the Convenor of the Crossbench peers, and the Chair of PASC, Mr Bernard Jenkin MP.

#### **Financial Report (paper 2)**

11. The Commission noted the paper. The Secretary to the Commission presented the financial report for the financial year 2009/10, and informed the Commission about projections for the Spending Review 2011-2015 and the need to offer efficiency savings.

#### **Consideration of nominees (papers 3 &4)**

12. The Commission discussed declarations of knowledge made by Commission members. The Commission agreed that Lord Dholakia would not participate in the consideration of [REDACTED] nomination; that Baroness Campbell would not be present at any interview of [REDACTED] and that Dame Joan Higgins would not participate in the consideration of [REDACTED] nomination. [REDACTED] was known to Lord Jay although this had not been annotated on the Commission papers.
13. The Commission then proceeded to consider the recommendations made by sub-committees held on 9<sup>th</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> July. It reached the following conclusions:
  - The Commission agreed the recommendations of the sub-committee that met on 9<sup>th</sup> June to consider newly sifted nominations. It was agreed that of the 36 nominations (listed in Annex A) 33 were unsuccessful and 3 nominations should be considered alongside others on the long-list.
  - The Commission agreed that 2 nominations from the short-list (Annex B) should be retained with a view to recommending them for appointment on the next list. These nominations were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It was agreed that the remaining 7 names on the shortlist should be written to by the Chairman informing them that they had been unsuccessful. During the discussion of the shortlist Baroness Campbell noted that social care and an ageing population was an issue of future importance for the Lords which she did not believe was adequately represented in the House.

- The Commission agreed that 3 nominations from the long-list (Annex C) should be invited to attend interviews in September, with a view to being considered at the next Commission meeting in October for appointment. These nominations were [REDACTED]. It was agreed that the secretariat should write to the remaining 15 nominees on the short-list and two of the nominees carried over from the earlier consideration of the newly-sifted nominations to inform them that they had been unsuccessful.
- It was agreed that a sub-committee of the Commission should meet as early as possible in September to consider new nominations that had been received up until the end of August.

#### **Communications**

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

#### **Freedom of Information**

15. Kate Campbell updated the Commission on recent requests for information.

#### **Any other business**

16. The next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for 20 October.

Commission Secretariat  
July 2010

