

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 68th MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2011

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

Geraldine Alexander (secretariat)
Maggie O'Boyle (press officer)
Beth Watson (secretariat)

Apologies

1. There were no apologies. (Baroness Campbell was only present for items 4 and 5 of the agenda.)

Minutes of 67th meeting (paper 1)

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2011 were agreed.

Chairman's update

3. The appointments of Sir Donald Curry and Dr Indarjit Singh were announced on 5 September.
4. The Chairman was due to have a meeting with the new Convenor of the Crossbenches, Lord Laming, next month.
5. The Chairman had written to the Prime Minister to inform him of the Commission's decision to clarify its published vetting criteria. Baroness Jay and Bernard Jenkin MP had been copied into the letter. The changes would be published on the website in the next few days.
6. The Commission agreed to maintain its current approach to members' declaration of interests relating to nominees.
7. Following discussion on its interview process it was agreed that on occasion the Commission may wish to invite a nominee to a second interview.

Lords reform discussion

8. The Commission discussed the progress of Lords reform. It was noted that the Steel Bill was reaching Committee Stage on 21st October.

Consideration of HoLAC nominations (paper 2)

9. The Commission considered 44 nominations. It agreed that four nominees would be invited to interview [REDACTED] with the remaining nominees being informed that their nomination was not successful.
10. The Commission agreed to consider the 26 new nominations to decide if any should be invited to interview before its next meeting. A sub-committee would be arranged for October to consider the nominations and make recommendations to the full Commission.

Communications

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

Freedom of information

12. The Commission was updated on recent FOI requests.

Any other business

13. The next Commission meeting would be held on 23 November. The secretariat would be contacting members in the next few weeks to arrange meeting dates for 2012.
14. The Commission's offices would be moving on 12 November to the Treasury building. The secretariat would ensure that members were kept informed of contact details for the office.

Commission Secretariat
September 2011