

## HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THE 58th MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 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 (secretariat)

#### Apologies

1. Apologies had been received from Pam Cooke.

#### Minutes of the previous meeting

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. In terms of matters arising there was no further update on judicial peerages and the issue of declarations of interest would be covered in a paper at today's meeting.

#### Chairman's update

3. Lord Jay was to give evidence on the work of the Commission to the House of Lords Constitution Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
4. A meeting was planned with a former nominee, [REDACTED], to talk about his analysis of gaps in expertise in the House of Lords.
5. Lord Jay updated the Commission on the implications of the general election for the work of the Commission. He also indicated that there may be an opportunity after the election for the Commission to look at how it might encourage nominations from a broader range of people. The Commission discussed existing opportunities for the work of the Commission to be publicised.
6. Richard Jarvis briefed the Commission on the progress of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill and on the situation regarding political lists.

## Vetting

7

## Discussion of nominations

8. The Commission agreed the recommendations of a recent sub-committee that considered twenty-five new nominations. Two nominations had been referred to the full Commission by the sub-committee. It was concluded that the nomination from the [REDACTED] would not be progressed further and that [REDACTED] would be retained for further consideration, with a view inviting him to interview.

## Commission Continuity

9. Richard Jarvis gave an update on progress with extending the terms of the party-political members of the Commission until the autumn to ensure continuity during the election period. The Commissioner on Public Appointments had been approached as a matter of courtesy and she had indicated that she was content with the proposal. Lord Jay had written to Mrs Gaymer to confirm this understanding. It was expected that the Cabinet Secretary would then write to the party leaders.

## Annual Report

10. The Commission agreed in principle the draft of the Annual Report. Several members had some comments on the detail which the secretariat will incorporate into the final draft.

## Research project

11. The Commission noted the final report received from Meg Russell and discussed the arrangements and handling of the publication. It was agreed that this should be linked to the publication of the Annual Report, but that a number of key individuals in the House of Lords should be sent a copy of the research in advance.

## Declarations of interest

12. The Commission noted the paper on declarations of interest and agreed that the Code of Practice should be amended in line with the second option set out in the paper.

## Communications

13. Maggie O'Boyle updated the Commission on recent press enquiries and the Commission noted the positive press coverage of the recent appointments.

**Freedom of Information**

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

**Any other business**

15. Next meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

Commission Secretariat  
February 2010

