


HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 42ND MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH 2007

Present: Lord Stevenson (Chairman)
Baroness Dean
Lord Dholakia
Mrs Felicity Huston
Ms Angela Sarkis

Mr Jim Barron – Secretariat
Ms Geraldine Alexander – Secretariat
Mrs Paula Adshead – Secretariat
Ms Maggie O’Boyle – Media Adviser
Mr Peter Fish – Treasury Solicitor’s Department



Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Lord Hurd.

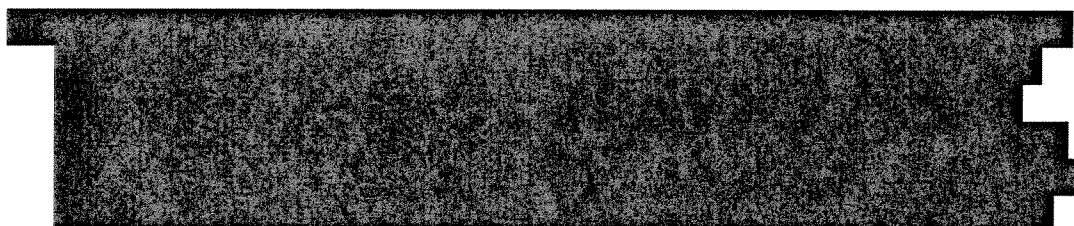
Minutes

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2006 were approved; those of 4 October 2006 were approved subject to the agreed changes to paragraph 9.

Chairman’s update

3. The PASC inquiry into the role and independence of the “ethical regulators” was continuing.
4. On 15 February the Commission had announced six further recommendations for appointment to the House of Lords.
5. The Chairman gave a report on his meeting with the Joint Committee on Lords reform chaired by the Leader of the House of Lords. It was noted that those peers recommended by the Commission had, overall, a comparatively good record of attendance and voting.

Annual Report



[REDACTED]

Vetting

[REDACTED]

Consideration of nominations

8. The Commission discussed the House of Lords reform and the possible impact of the vote for 100% elected peers on its work. It was agreed that the Chairman would speak to the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff to clarify the Commission's position regarding further appointments.
9. Introducing the Secretariat's paper on nominees, the Chairman stressed the need for the Commission to be rigorous and focused in its considerations. Prompt action should be taken by both the Secretariat and the Commission to sift nominations and reject those considered unsuccessful.
10. It was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate its overview of gaps in the experience of members of the House of Lords and its assessment of the background of nominees.
11. The Commission discussed the position of [REDACTED] nomination and agreed that it should be kept on hold.
12. Three individuals were identified as being a priority for appointment - [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (subject to further checks). It was suggested that the names could be announced in April or May.

Any other business

13. It was noted that the Phillips' report on party funding would be published shortly. The Commission should be aware of the proposals and the possible effects on its own procedures.