

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE 44TH MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2007

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

Ms Geraldine Alexander – Secretariat
[REDACTED]

Apologies

1. There were apologies from Mr Jim Barron, Secretary to the Commission.

Minutes

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2007 were agreed.

Chairman's update

3. It was noted that Lord Laidlaw has been granted a leave of absence from the House of Lords.
4. It was agreed that the Chairman would arrange to meet with the Cabinet Secretary to discuss the future work of the Commission once the new Prime Minister was in office.
5. The Commission noted the publication of its annual report on 7 June.

Sir Robin Janvrin

6. The Commission had been asked to vet Sir Robin Janvrin, who had been nominated as one of the Prime Minister's ten exceptions. It was noted that he was known in a personal capacity by Lords Stevenson and Hurd.

Next List

7. It was agreed that there were three nominees who should be put forward in the next list; Sir Nicholas Stern, Professor Haleh Afshar and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would not be recommended until an outstanding vetting issue was resolved.) The Commission would review the nominees who had been interviewed to see if any names should also be added to the next list. To this end, the Secretariat was invited to circulate a list of the interviewees together with their citations.

8. The Commission identified some priority areas of expertise and knowledge for future nominees. These were: Europe, sport, security and terrorism, foreign affairs and immigration.
9. The Commission discussed the attendance of its 42 nominees in the House of Lords. It would consider making it more explicit at interview that it expected nominees to contribute to the House as generalists as well as in their area of expertise. It would also consider publishing in its next annual report an analysis of its nominees' attendance. The secretariat was invited to scope a project to analyse the Commission's nominees' performance both absolutely and relatively to other peers.
10. It was agreed that the Chairman might speak to those nominees whose attendance was relatively low in order to encourage them to attend and contribute more.

Future interviewees

11. The Commission would consider all the holdover nominees as well as new nominations when drawing up its list of future interviewees. In doing so, it would bear in mind the priority areas it identified during the meeting. The secretariat was invited to circulate a list of nominees to members.

Commission Secretariat
June 2007