

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

HOLAC (15)5th
HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MEETING

Thursday 22nd October 2015 at 1 Horse Guards Road, London

Commission Members

Lord Hart of Chilton, Lord Howard of Lympne, Lord Kakkar (Chairman), Lord Low of Dalston, Professor Gillian Peele, Sir Malcolm Ross, and Baroness Scott of Needham Market.

Secretariat

Ekpe Attah, Catherine Millington, Alex Morrow, Maggie O'Boyle and Clare Salters.

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Minutes of the last meeting HoLAC(15)4th

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Communications Update (oral update)

The press officer, Maggie O'Boyle, gave an oral update on recent media and press coverage. It was agreed that she would give advice on interview techniques to those members of the Committee who feel this would be beneficial to them.

4. Chairman's Update

The Chairman updated the Commission on interactions in relation to recent correspondence that he has received, and in particular two letters from separate individuals. His replies will be circulated to the Committee.

The Committee discussed various aspects of its decision making process in relation to political nominees.

Action point: Letters to be circulated to Committee members

5. Sifting non party political nominations received July-September 2015

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The Committee had received 28 nominations since it last considered applications at the July meeting. They had been sifted by the Secretariat.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to reject all names other than [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who would be retained for further consideration.

Action point: Secretariat to write to the 25 unsuccessful nominees.

6. Issues arising from recent political lists:

(i) Consent HoLAC (15)09

The Committee discussed the possibility of dropping the requirement for an individual to give consent before nomination. It was concluded that consent should continue to be sought at the outset.

(ii) Vetting Criteria HoLAC (15) 10

A discussion took place around the criteria that the Committee uses when vetting nominees. It was decided that the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] should in future be approached as a matter of course. It was also decided to remind political parties that citations should make clear the link between themselves and a nominee in regards to donation of funds.

Action points: Secretariat to explore possibility of creating a Memorandum of Understanding with each of the above three organisations.

(iii) Vetting timetable HoLAC (15) 11

The Committee discussed the possibility of constructing a timetable for the vetting of future nominations. It was concluded that this would not be practical.

7. FOI update

Catherine Millington provided an oral update on recent Freedom of Information requests submitted to the Committee Secretariat.

8. AOB

None. Date of next meeting to be arranged.

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Commission Secretariat
October 2015

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