

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

HOLAC (16)(1st)
HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MEETING

Monday 29th February at 1 Horse Guards Road, London

Commission Members

Lord Howard of Lympne, Lord Kakkar (Chairman), Lord Low of Dalston, Professor Gillian Peele, Sir Malcolm Ross.

Secretariat

Clive Barbour, Alex Morrow, Maggie O'Boyle and Clare Salters.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lord Hart and Baroness Scott.

2. Minutes of the last meeting HoLAC(15)5th

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Chairman's Update

The Chairman stated that the paper updating previous research on expertise within the House of Lords has now been published on the Commission website.

A third letter had been received from [REDACTED] in relation to his nomination; the correspondence is now considered to be closed.

In response to a question from Lord Howard, the Chairman stated that he had no information on whether there is likely to be a new list of nominees other than what has been reported in the press. If there is a large list presented to the Commission, it is likely to take a month to conclude the vetting process. It was agreed that it would be very difficult to do this during August, when officials in Departments and Agencies were less available as were Commissioners and the secretariat.

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4. Communications Update

The press officer, Maggie O'Boyle, gave an oral update on recent media and press coverage.

5. Consideration of retained nominations October 2014 - November 2015 (HoLAC 16 (01))

Clive Barbour informed the Commission that there were 13 nominations that had been retained following previous sifts.

Of the names on the retained list, it was decided that the following candidates would be interviewed between April and June:

[REDACTED]

The following Commissioners declared that they knew the following candidates:

Malcolm Ross and Lord Howard stated they knew [REDACTED]
Gillian Peele, Lord Howard and Lord Low stated they knew [REDACTED]

Action Point: The seven unsuccessful candidates to be informed in writing.

6. Consideration of new nominations November 2015 - January 2016 (HoLAC 16 (02))

Alex Morrow introduced the paper detailing nominations that had been received in the period November 2015 - January 2016. There were a total of thirty-two candidates. Following discussion, the Commission agreed that the following nominees should be put forward for interview:

[REDACTED]

Action Point: Thirty unsuccessful candidates to be informed in writing

7. Wider Strategic Issues

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Clare Salters gave an update on progress towards the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and other organisations involved in carrying out vetting checks.

8. FOI update

Clive Barbour stated that following a recent FOI request, the minutes of all meetings from 2006 were now on the Commission's website.

9. AOB

The next date being held for a meeting of the Commission was 8th June.

Commission Secretariat

March 2016

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