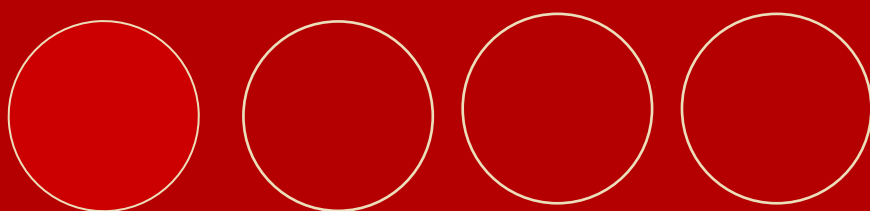


HOUSE OF LORDS  
APPOINTMENTS  
COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2011 to September 2013





# House of Lords Appointments Commission

September 2013

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

## **Eighth Report**

I enclose the eighth Report of the House of Lords Appointments Commission, covering the period from October 2011 to September 2013.

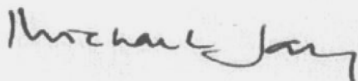
During the reporting period the Commission made four recommendations for non-party-political appointments to the House of Lords. This is in accordance with the clarification we received from your office that the Commission should make no more than two recommendations a year for the time being.

The Commission has vetted one list of party-political nominees during this period, announced in August 2013. In total, since October 2011 the Commission has vetted 33 individuals who have gone on to sit on the party-political benches, including three nominees appointed to take up ministerial office.

As you know, this will be the last report published by the Commission during my term of office, which comes to an end on 1 October. It has been an honour to have chaired the Commission over the last five years, and I am very grateful to my fellow Commissioners for their support and wise advice. I am more than ever convinced that the House of Lords has a crucial role to play in our constitutional democracy and that high calibre appointments reflecting the diversity of the United Kingdom in its broader sense must continue to be made to it. I am particularly glad for your recent assurance that the Government appreciates what the Commission has done to ensure greater diversity in appointments to the House of Lords.

Finally, may I say that I welcome your appointment of the incoming Chairman, Lord Kakkar, and wish him every success for his tenure.

Yours sincerely



Lord Jay of Ewelme  
Chairman

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# Section 1

## The Appointments Commission

1. In May 2000 the Prime Minister established the House of Lords Appointments Commission as an independent, advisory, non-departmental public body.

### Commission Membership

2. The Commission has seven members, including the Chairman. Three members represent the main political parties and ensure that the Commission has expert knowledge of the House of Lords. The other members, including the Chairman, are independent of government and political parties. The independent members were appointed in October 2008 by open competition, in accordance with the code of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The party-political members are all members of the House of Lords and were nominated by the respective party leader in November 2010 for three year terms.
3. The terms of all members therefore come to an end in the autumn of 2013.
4. Biographies of the Commission members can be seen at Annex A.
5. The Commission is supported by a small secretariat at 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

### Role of the House of Lords Appointments Commission

6. The role of the Commission is to:
  - make recommendations for the appointment of non-party-political members of the House of Lords; and
  - vet for propriety recommendations to the House of Lords, including those put forward by the political parties and Prime Minister.

### Recommendations for independent peers

7. The Commission recommends individuals for non-party-political membership of the House of Lords based on merit and their ability to make a significant contribution to the work of the House. The Commission has been asked by the Prime Minister to consider nominees who would broaden the expertise and experience of the House and reflect the diversity of the people of the United Kingdom. The Commission must ensure that the individuals it recommends are independent, have integrity and are committed to the highest standards of public life.
8. As with his predecessors, the Prime Minister decides the number of recommendations to be invited from the Commission. Also in line with the approach of his predecessors, the Prime Minister has said that he will only decline to pass on a recommendation to Her Majesty The Queen in exceptional circumstances.



9. In 2012, the Prime Minister asked that the Commission make no more than two recommendations a year for the time being.
10. The Prime Minister reserves the right to nominate directly to The Queen up to 10 distinguished public servants in any one Parliament, on their retirement, for non-party-political peerages. The Appointments Commission vets such nominees for propriety. During the reporting period the Commission has vetted two individuals nominated under this reserved power: Sir Gus O'Donnell (the Lord O'Donnell) and Sir Mervyn King (Lord King of Lothbury). The Prime Minister also nominated the Most Reverend and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Williams on his retirement as Archbishop of Canterbury (the Right Reverend Rt Hon Lord Williams of Oystermouth), whom the Commission did not vet, as Lord Williams was already a member of the House of Lords.

#### **Vetting nominations from the Prime Minister and the political parties**

11. The Commission's role is to vet for propriety individuals nominated to the House of Lords by the Prime Minister and the political parties. In May 2010 the Commission was invited by the Prime Minister to vet individuals who were to be appointed to the House of Lords as Ministers. It is not asked to comment on the suitability of those nominated by others, but simply to advise the Prime Minister on the propriety of individual nominees.
12. During the reporting period, the Commission vetted for propriety 33 individuals who were recommended for party-political life peerages.
13. Further details on the vetting process are given in Section 3 of the report.

#### **Openness**

##### **Accountability to Parliament**

14. On 25 January 2012 Lord Jay, the Chairman of the Commission, appeared before the House of Lords Constitution Committee. He welcomed the opportunity to appear before the Committee for a second time on behalf of the Commission. A transcript of this session is published on the parliamentary website at <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/constitution/HOLAppoints/ucCNST250112ev1.pdf>
15. The Chairman also appeared before the House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee on 27 June 2013, as part of its enquiry into the next steps for House of Lords reform. As his tenure was approaching its conclusion, Lord Jay was able to offer the Committee evidence based on his experience as Chairman over the last five years. A transcript of his evidence is published on the parliamentary website at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmpolcon/uc251-iii/uc251.pdf>

## Freedom of Information

16. As a public body, the House of Lords Appointments Commission is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. During the reporting period, 11 requests for information were received and responded to in line with the provisions of the Act.

## The Commission's expenditure

17. The Commission's expenditure for the financial year April 2012 to March 2013 was £118,997.
18. The major element of expenditure was staff costs, at £76,065. Commission members' fees - £8,000 for the Chairman and £3,000 for other members - totalled £26,000. The remainder of the expenditure was for administrative costs including travel and subsistence, staff training, publications and stationery.
19. In the previous financial year, April 2011 to March 2012 the Commission's expenditure was £115,700. This included staff costs at £73,956 and Commission members' fees totalling £26,000.

## Triennial review

20. The Minister for the Cabinet Office announced the start of the triennial review of the Commission in March 2013, and that the review would be undertaken by his department. The Commission understands that the review has yet to conclude.



## Section 2

# Appointments of non-party-political peers

### Introduction

21. From October 2011 until the end of August 2013, the Commission received 173 nominations and recommended four individuals for non-party-political peerages. Details of the nominees who were appointed to the House of Lords can be found below.
22. Since the Commission was established in 2000 it has recommended 63 people for appointment from around 5000 nominations.
23. The Commission does not have a closing date for nominations. It welcomes new nominations at any time and there is a regular and continuous assessment process for all nominations.
24. The Commission's selection criteria and its assessment process are published in full on its website at <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/>.

### Diversity of nominations

25. The Commission takes seriously its remit to consider nominees who would broaden the expertise and experience of the House and reflect the diversity of the people of the United Kingdom. The Commission approaches diversity in this context in its broadest sense; for example, as well as taking into account the recognised protected characteristics, such as gender, ethnicity and disability, it is keen to ensure that nominees from all parts of the United Kingdom are considered.
26. To date, of the 63 appointments it has made to the House of Lords, 23 are women and 13 are from a minority ethnic background, which equates to 37% and 22% of the Commission's appointments, respectively. This compares well against the current composition of the Lords, where just over 20% of Members are women and 5% are from minority ethnic backgrounds. Whilst the House of Lords does not collate information on the number of Peers who are disabled, seven of the Commission's appointments (11%) have declared a disability. The Commission continues to look to appoint individuals who reflect the diversity of the UK, while always ensuring that the appointments are made on the basis of merit.



### Commission recommendations for appointment to the House of Lords

27. Since October 2011, the Commission has made four recommendations: two whose appointments were announced in May 2012 and two announced in February 2013. The four nominees put forward by the Commission were:

- **Michael Berkeley CBE (Baron Berkeley of Knighton)** is an eminent composer and broadcaster who has been at the forefront of British music for the last 30 years. His operas have been performed throughout the world. He has written music for orchestra, chamber and choral music and scores for feature films and popular music. As well as broadcasting for the BBC on television and radio (he presents Radio 3's award-winning Private Passions), he regularly writes articles on the arts for national publications and has been a passionate advocate for contemporary music and music in schools. He was artistic director of the Cheltenham International Festival of Music for ten years and has been the composer in Association to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, to the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the New York Philomusica. He has been a visiting professor at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the University of Huddersfield. He helped set up the Association of Professional Composers (which became part of the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors). He has served on the board of the Royal Opera House and as Chairman of the Governors of the Royal Ballet. He has been involved in a number of other arts organisations, such as the National Youth Orchestra, the Sydney, Spitalfields and Presteigne Festivals. He has been a member of the committee of the Queen's Medal for Music since its inception. He has also given time to a number of charitable institutions such as the Koestler Trust, which promotes art in prisons, and the Coram Foundation, the UK's oldest children's charity, which supports the most vulnerable children, young people and families. Recently he has campaigned for greater awareness amongst GP's and the public of the issues surrounding hearing loss.
- **Martha Lane Fox (Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho)** co-founded lastminute.com in 1998. She took the company public in 2000 and it was sold in 2005. It is Europe's largest travel and leisure website. She is currently the founder and Chair of Go On UK, a radical new cross sector charity that aims to spread digital skills. She co-founded the karaoke business LuckyVoice in 2004 and chairs MakieLab, a start-up networked toy company. She is currently a non-executive director of Marks and Spencer and the Women's Prize for Fiction. In 2007 she started Antigone, her own grant giving foundation, which funds charities that target neglected causes. She chairs Founders Forum for Good and is a Patron of AbilityNet, Reprieve, Just for Kids Law and Camfed, (which educates girls and supports young women to become agents of change). Martha Lane Fox has been the UK Government's digital champion since 2009 and is a non-executive director of the Efficiency and Reform Board at Cabinet Office and the Government Digital Service.
- **Ms Beeban Kidron (Baroness Kidron)** is an award-winning film, TV and documentary film director. She is also a Governor of the British Film Institute and co-founder and Vice Chair of FILMCLUB, an educational charity which engages children from the ages of 5 to 18 in state schools. Ms Kidron has spent the last 30 years working as an international feature film, TV and documentary film director. Formerly on the Board



of the UK Film Council (UKFC 2008-11) she became a Governor of the British Film Institute (BFI) in April 2011. Her artistic and commercial successes have included the BAFTA award-winning *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit* (1990), *To Wong Foo... (1994)*, and *Bridget Jones: Edge of Reason* (2003), which remains one of the highest-grossing films in the UK. Her long-standing campaigning interest in women's issues, international development and education is reflected in her documentaries, such as the critically acclaimed *Sex, Death and the Gods* (2010) which examined the lives of temple prostitutes in India, and *Hookers, Hustlers, Pimps & Their Johns* (1994), a study of the New York sex industry. She has a special interest in women's organisations in the developing world and recently filmed Liberian President Ellen Johnston Shirleaf whilst accompanying a GREAT/Femmes Africa Solidarité mission in the country. In 2008 she co-founded FILMCLUB, an educational charity which shows carefully curated films in order to engage and educate children by supporting and broadly extending the school curriculum. FILMCLUB has established over 7000 film clubs in English state schools and is currently being rolled out to more than a third of all schools in Wales and Northern Ireland with pilot schemes being planned across Europe. She is also a member of the council of the Institute of Contemporary Art, a Patron of Artangel and a mentor with Skillset's Guiding Lights initiative supporting upcoming filmmakers.

- **Professor Alexander (Sandy) Trees (Baron Trees of The Ross)** is a veterinary surgeon who has worked in general practice, industry and academia. He recently retired as Professor of Veterinary Parasitology, University of Liverpool, after a career working in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He held a number of senior professional positions, including recently as President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of which he is still a Council member. He was Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Liverpool from 2001 to 2008. He has given the prestigious Wooldridge Lecture at the British Veterinary Association Congress and the McCall lecture at the University of Glasgow. He has received the Selborne medal of the Association of Veterinary Teachers and research workers and the Amoroso Award of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association. The major part of Professor Trees' career has been in academic research and teaching in parasitic diseases at the University of Liverpool, where he held a variety of posts covering a period of over 30 years, commencing in 1980. He has published more than 140 scientific papers and has been active in promoting research and funding for research training, and in the advancement of veterinary education. Professor Trees' research and teaching has included human as well as animal health. He has made a significant contribution to tropical medicine through his drug development research concerning human river blindness in West Africa and has made major contributions to temperate climate livestock and companion animal diseases, including abortion in cattle and disease threats to travelling pets. He is currently Editor in Chief of the major professional journal, *Record*, and Chairman of the Board of the Moredun Research institute, Edinburgh.

## Section 3

### Vetting party-political nominees

#### Commission's role in vetting party-political nominees

28. The Commission's role is to vet for propriety individuals nominated to the House of Lords by the Prime Minister and political parties. It is not asked to comment on the suitability of those so nominated, but simply to advise the Prime Minister on the propriety of individual nominees. It does not have a right of veto over any party-political nominee.
29. The Commission's process for vetting party-political nominees, including those who have donated to political parties, is set out on its website.
30. The Commission's published criteria reads:

*The Commission's role is to advise the Prime Minister if it has any concerns about the propriety of a nominee. The Commission takes the view that in this context propriety means:*

- i. The nominee is in good standing in the community in general and with the regulatory authorities in particular; and,*
- ii. The past conduct of the nominee would not reasonably be regarded as bringing the House of Lords into disrepute*

#### Names vetted since the last report

31. During the reporting period, the Commission vetted 37 individuals who were subsequently appointed to the House of Lords:

One list of 30 party-political peers;  
Two individuals nominated by the Prime Minister as non-party-political peers;  
Three individuals appointed by the Prime Minister to serve as ministers; and  
Four individuals nominated by the Commission as non-party-political peers.

A list of all these individuals is at Annex B.

32. The Commission's advice to the Prime Minister is confidential. It does not disclose its advice and does not comment on either the identity or number of nominees it may have advised against.

#### Vetting of Ministers

33. Ministerial appointees are required to make the same declarations about their tax status and donations as other nominees. However, with the potential time constraints surrounding ministerial appointments – during a government reshuffle, for example – the extent to which the Commission is able to gather a wider range of evidence may vary from one occasion to another. In carrying out its vetting, as a minimum the Commission will consult its main vetting agencies and the Electoral Commission register before giving its advice.







## Annex A

### Biographies of the Commission



**Lord (Michael) Jay of Ewelme GCMG (Chairman)** has been an Independent Crossbench member of the House of Lords since 2006 and was appointed Chair of the House of Lords Appointments Commission in October 2008. He is a non-executive director of Associated British Foods, Candover Investments, EDF SA and Valeo SA, is a member of the British Library Advisory Council, and was Chair of the medical aid charity Merlin until July 2013. Following a career in the Ministry of Overseas Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office he was British Ambassador in Paris from 1996-2001, Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign Office from 2002-2006 and the Prime Minister's Personal Representative for the G8 in 2005 and 2006. He is an Honorary Fellow of Magdalen College Oxford and was a Senior Associate Member of St Antony's College Oxford in 1996.



**Baroness (Jane) Campbell of Surbiton DBE** progressed through a number of local government equal opportunities roles, principally focusing on disability human rights issues before becoming an Independent Consultant on Direct Payments and independent living (1994-96). She then co-directed the National Centre for Independent Living before becoming the founding Chair of the Social Care Institute for Excellence (2001-2005). She served as a Commissioner on the Disability Rights Commission for its duration (2000-2007), and then served as Commissioner on the Equalities & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) from 2007-2009. She is currently working with the government on developing legislation and practical guidance to extend choice and control for disabled people over their public service support. She was appointed as a cross bench peer in 2007 and is now the new Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group.



**Professor Dame Joan Higgins** has had a career in social and health policy at Southampton and Manchester Universities, has undertaken significant healthcare advisory work and has held various public appointments. She was Chair of the Christie Hospital NHS Trust (2002-2007), a leading cancer centre. Since 2007, she has been Chair of the NHS Litigation Authority, which defends the NHS against claims of clinical (and other) negligence.

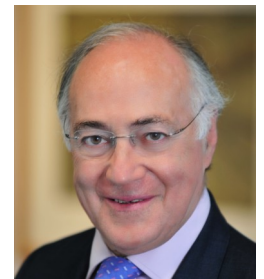


**Dr John Low CBE** has a mix of public and private sector experience, notably as Chief Executive of the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and prior to 2007 as Chief Executive of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID). He is a Director of CAF Bank Ltd and of the Euclid Network of European Third Sector Leaders, having been Trustee and Chairman of ACEVO from 2003 to 2009. Dr Low is also an Independent Member of Council at City University, London. His early career was in research and in science-based roles in the private sector. He became Director in charge of R&D for a Swiss technology business, Buhler Sortex, in 1988, and left in 1999 to join RNID.

**Lord (Garry) Hart of Chilton** (Labour) is Chancellor of the University of Greenwich and a Labour Peer. Before entering public service, he was a partner in the city law firm Herbert Smith, specialising in planning and administrative law. Lord Hart is a former member of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Merits of Statutory Instruments and currently a member of the Select Committee on the Constitution. He is also a member of the Development and Strategy Committee of the Victoria and Albert Museum. Past appointments include terms as Chairman of the Almeida Theatre and Deputy Chairman of the Architect Foundation. He has served as a trustee of the British Architectural Library Trust and is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and a Fellow and former Lay Member of Council at University College London.



**The Rt. Hon. Lord (Michael) Howard of Lympne CH QC** (Conservative) is a former leader of the Conservative Party, having served as a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons for nearly three decades. Lord Howard served as Secretary of State for Employment, Secretary of State for the Environment and Home Secretary in the Conservative government before taking the front-bench opposition roles of Shadow Chancellor and Shadow Foreign Secretary. He was elected to Parliament in 1983 and served as an MP until April 2010 before being appointed a Conservative Life Peer. Prior to his career in government, Lord Howard practised as a barrister for over 20 years, achieving the rank of Queen's Counsel in 1982. Since leaving politics, he has pursued a variety of international business interests. He is Chairman of Arena Racing Corporation Limited, Chairman of Luup Limited, Chairman of Entree Gold Inc., Chairman of Soma Oil & Gas Holdings Limited and is Senior Adviser to Cannacord Genuity Limited. He is also Chairman of Help the Hospices.



**Baroness (Rosalind) Scott of Needham Market** (Liberal Democrat) was created a Life Peer in 2000 after a career in local government in Suffolk. In addition to holding significant positions within Suffolk County Council, Baroness Scott has been a senior member of the Local Government Association, Member of the Board of the Audit Commission, and a UK delegate to the European Union Committee of the Regions. Since becoming a Member of the House of Lords, Baroness Scott has held front bench positions as the Liberal Democrat spokesman for Local Government and Communities, and for Transport. Between 2008 and 2010 she held office as President of the Liberal Democrats. Since May 2013, she has been Chair of the House of Lords EU Scrutiny Sub Committee D, dealing with energy, environment, agriculture and fisheries.





## Annex B

# Individuals vetted by the Commission and appointed to the House of Lords

### Conservative

#### **November 2012**

Lord Deighton

#### **January 2013**

Lord Nash

#### **July 2013**

Lord Livingston of Parkhead

#### **August 2013**

Richard Balfe

Sir Anthony Bamford

Nicholas Bourne

Matthew Carrington

Daniel Finkelstein

Annabel Goldie

Lady (Fiona) Hodgson

Christopher Holmes

John Horam

Howard Leigh

Dame Lucy Neville-Rolfe

Sir Stephen Sherbourne

Michael Whitby

Susan Williams

### Green

#### **August 2013**

Jenny Jones

### Labour

#### **August 2013**

Sir Charles Allen

Sir William Haughey

Alicia Kennedy

Jonathan Mendelsohn

Doreen Lawrence

### Liberal Democrat

#### **August 2013**

Catherine Mary Bakewell

Rosalind Grender

Christine Mary Humphreys

Zahida Manzoor

Brian Paddick

James Palumbo

Jeremy Purvis

Alison Suttie

Rumi Verjee

Sir Ian Wrigglesworth

### Non-party-political peers

#### **January 2012**

Lord O'Donnell

#### **June 2012**

Baroness Kidron

#### **July 2012**

Lord Trees

#### **March 2013**

Lord Berkeley of Knighton

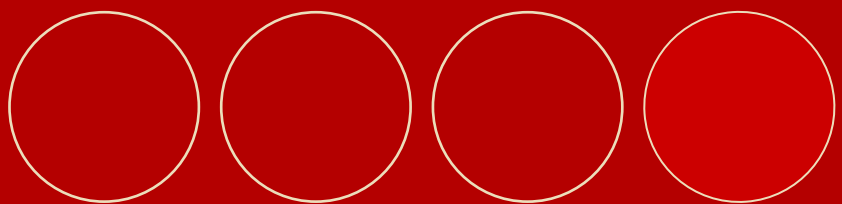
Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho

#### **July 2013**

Lord King of Lothbury







House of Lords Appointments Commission

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