Information disclosed February 2009 in response for a Freedom of Information Request for information relating to the Appointments Commission's "attempts to improve the attendance and performance of its nominees in the House of Lords since 2005

Excerpt from Minutes of 35th meeting of House of Lords Appointments Commission (held on 7 February 2006)

"Previously appointed members
The Chairman had spoken to xxxxxxx regarding her attendance at the Lords. She told the Chairman that she hoped to stimulate a debate about xxxxxxxx. The Chairman planned to speak to other nominees regarding their attendance."

Some of the information in this excerpt has been redacted because it is exempt from disclosure by the following exemption:

Section 40(2) of the Act (information which constitutes personal data where the disclosure of the information would contravene the data protection principles). This redaction covers discussion of an individual nominee and therefore falls within this exemption. This exemption is absolute.

Excerpt from Minutes of 42nd meeting of House of Lords Appointments Commission (held on 12 March 2007)

"Chairmans's update
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."

Excerpt from Minutes of 44th meeting of the House of Lords Appointments Commission (held on 25 June 2007)

"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."

The document prepared by the Secretariat in February 2007 is attached at Annex A

Excerpt from Minutes of 50th meeting of the House of Lords Appointments Commission (held on 29th September 2008)

"It was noted that some nominated peers were not as visible in the House as the Commission had hoped. For some this may have been due to the stage of their career. It was, however, agreed that more could be done by working with the Convenor of the Crossbenches and potentially with an informal 'mentoring' scheme to help those being introduced to the House in establishing an active role."

Lord Stevenson

ANALYSIS OF ATTENDANCE AND VOTING FIGURES

The working group gave you two lists when you met them on 24 January:

- Annex A: Attendance by "People's Peers" (2001-2005); and
- Annex B. Voting Record of "People's Peers" (2001-2006).

2. Louise and Paula have done an excellent job of getting the raw data on the attendance and voting record of all peers from the House of Lords for the same period and entering it into a spreadsheet to work out the averages.

3. The annexes cover different periods. We have fuller records on voting than attendance. We have, though, analysed voting in the same way as attendance, that is shown figures for the Appointments Commission's peers with and without the four and then six most absent peers by attendance. We have not carried out a further analysis of the voting records to exclude the other peers who do not vote frequently.

Attendance

4. An analysis of Annex A reveals the following:

- Average attendance by the Appointment Commission's peers 45.3%
- Average excluding the most absent peers (Adebowale, Browne, Greenfield and Rana) 54.9%
- Average excluding Boers and May as well 58.3%.

5. A comparison with the Crossbenches is favourable:

- Average attendance for all Crossbenches (including Law Lords) 37%
- Average excluding the Appointment Commission's peers 36%.

6. A comparison with the parties is, as one would expect, less favourable:

- Conservative 56%
- Labour 68%
- Liberal Democrat 71%.

Voting

6. An analysis of Annex B reveals the following

- Average votes by the Appointment Commission's peers 14.2%
- Average excluding the most absent peers (Adebowale, Browne, Greenfield and Rana) 17.2%
- Average excluding Boers and May as well 18.6%.

7. A comparison with the Crossbenches is favourable:

- Average voting for all Crossbenches (including Law Lords) 12%
- Average excluding the Appointment Commission's peers 12%.

8. A comparison with the parties is, as one would expect, less favourable:

- Conservative 32%
- Labour 53%
- Liberal Democrat 48%.

JKB

J K BARRON
6 February 2007

ANNEX A: ATTENDANCE BY "PEOPLE'S PEERS" (2001-2005)

NB: Attendance figures not yet published for 2005-6 session

People's peer	Possible days	Days attended	Days missed	% days missed
Adebowale	565	43	522	**92%**
Best	591	210	381	**64%**
Bhatia	584	520	64	11%
Broers	101	18	83	**82%**
Browne of Madingley	578	13	565	**98%**
Cameron of Dillington	97	37	60	**62%**
Chan	588	382	206	35%
Chapman, Bns.	96	49	47	49%
Condon	579	360	219	38%
D'Souza, Bns.	91	88	3	3%
Finlay of Llandaff, Bns	583	282	301	**52%**
Greenfield, B	591	45	546	**92%**
Hannay of Chiswick GCMG	590	290	300	**51%**
Howarth of Breckland, B.	575	368	207	36%
Howe of Idlicote, B.	582	492	90	15%
May of Oxford	571	100	471	**82%**
Moser	584	213	371	**64%**
Murphy, Bns.	115	73	42	37%
Ouseley	583	413	170	29%
Rana	113	15	98	**87%**
Sutherland of Houndwood	578	234	344	**60%**
Young of Hornsey, Bns.	100	37	63	**63%**

ANNEX B: VOTING RECORD OF "PEOPLE'S PEERS (2001-6)

People's peer	Possible votes	Vote for Government	Votes against Government	% of votes for Government	% of votes missed
Adebowale	825	11	3	79%	98%
Best	833	14	20	41%	96%
Bhatia	832	114	18	86%	84%
Bilimoria	43	0	0	n/a	100%
Broers	317	7	9	44%	95%
Browne of Madingley	830	0	0	n/a	100%
Butler-Sloss, Bns	43	2	2	50%	91%
Cameron of Dillington	314	16	30	35%	88%
Chan	682	89	68	57%	76%
Chapman, Bns.	314	2	4	33%	98%
Condon	830	55	35	61%	88%
Dear	41	3	4	43%	83%
Deech, Bns	182	6	4	60%	94%
D'Souza, Bns.	310	53	101	34%	49%
Finlay of Llandaff, Bns	832	96	140	41%	71%
Fritchie, Bns.	191	7	15	32%	88%
Greenfield, B	833	1	4	20%	99%
Hannay of Chiswick GCMG	833	109	51	68%	79%
Hastings of Scarisbrick	164	1	1	50%	99%
Howarth of Breckland, B.	827	226	55	80%	65%
Howe of Idlicote, B.	832	82	312	21%	52%
Low of Dalston	52	3	2	60%	90%
May of Oxford	827	14	18	44%	96%
Meacher, Bns.	41	2	2	50%	90%
Moser	832	63	26	71%	88%
Murphy, Bns.	339	55	35	61%	71%
Ouseley	832	94	8	92%	87%
Patel of Bradford	59	6	1	86%	88%
Ramsbotham	192	13	42	24%	69%
Rana	435	1	0	100%	99%
Rees of Ludlow	185	8	0	100%	95%
Rowe-Beddoe	43	2	1	67%	93%
Sutherland of Houndwood	830	53	40	57%	88%
Turner of Ecchinswell	191	1	3	25%	97%
Valentine, Bns	183	0	4	0%	98%
Young of Hornsey, Bns.	259	21	19	52%	84%

16,208 1,230 1,077

2,307

14%