

October 2018

## **HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

### **LORD BEW APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

Lord (Paul) Bew has today been appointed by the Prime Minister as Chairman of the independent House of Lords Appointments Commission following pre-appointment scrutiny by the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee

Lord Bew recently completed a five-year term as the independent Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life on 31 August 2018, where he was responsible for advising the Prime Minister on ethical standards across public life.

Lord Bew will take up this appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

The House of Lords Appointments Commission has also published a report of its work in recommending individuals for appointment as non-party-political peers and vetting nominations for peerages for propriety from 2015 – 2018

#### **Notes to Editors**

1. Media enquiries about the work of the House of Lords Appointments Commission should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627. Further information on the Appointments Commission can be obtained from <http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>
2. The House of Lords Appointments Commission is a non-statutory advisory body, set up in 2000 by the then Prime Minister, to make recommendations for non-party-political peerages. The Commission's remit is to find people of distinction who will bring authority and expertise to the House of Lords. The Commission recommends individuals on merit and their ability to contribute effectively to the work of the House. The House of Lords Appointments Commission has recommended a total of 70 non-party-political peerages (since 2000) to the Prime Minister, drawn from well over 5,200 nominations. The Commission also vets nominations for life peers, including those nominated by the UK political parties, for propriety.
3. The membership of the House of Lords Appointments Commission currently comprises four independent members: Lord (Ajay) Kakkar (Chairman), Lord (Colin) Low, Sir Malcolm Ross and Gillian Peele and three members nominated by each of the three main political parties: Rt Hon Lord (David) Clark of Windermere (Labour), Baroness (Angela) Browning (Conservative) and Baroness Scott of Needham Market (Liberal

Democrat). The Chairman and independent members are selected through open competition.

4. Lord Bew succeeds Lord (Ajay) Kakkar who completes his five-year term as Chair on xx October 2018. The appointment is for a five-year non-renewal term. He will be paid on the basis of a non-pensionable salary of £8,000 per annum, with the chair being expected to commit 2 to 3 days per month.
5. Lord Bew joined Queen's University Belfast in 1979 and was made Professor of Irish Politics in 1991. He acted as historical adviser to the Bloody Sunday Inquiry between 1998 and 2001 and was appointed as a non-party-political peer by the independent House of Lords Appointments Commission in February 2007 following his contributions to the Good Friday Agreement. He has served on a number of committees including the Joint Committee on the Defamation Bill, which addressed key issues of academic freedom, and the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege which produced its report in July 2013. Lord Bew chaired the 2011 independent review of Key Stage 2 (SATs) provision in England. He is a Visiting Professor at King's College London. Among Lord Bew's many publications is the Ireland volume of the Oxford History of Modern Europe.