

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION MINUTES

29 October 2020
Video Conference

Attendees: Lord Bew, Baroness Browning, Lord Clark, Baroness Parminter, Lord Chartres, Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, HOLAC Secretariat and Press Officer

Apologies: none

Prime Ministerial public sector exceptions

1. The Commission undertook its vetting duties in relation to nominees proposed by the Prime Minister as non-party-political public sector exceptions for the crossbenches. Members of the Commission recused themselves as necessary when potential or perceived conflicts of interest were identified and took no part in the discussion.

HOLAC nominations

2. Members considered the feedback from the interviews conducted to identify two non-party-political crossbench nominees to be nominated by HOLAC. Ten nominees had been interviewed. The needs and skill gaps of the House were discussed and the Commission agreed a shortlist of nominees. The shortlist was narrowed to three nominees. The Secretariat was asked to undertake further inquiries to support a final recommendation.

Political peerages

3. The Commission undertook its vetting duties in relation to political peerage nominations. Members of the Commission recused themselves as necessary when potential or perceived conflicts of interest were identified and took no part in the discussion.

Policy

4. Members discussed a number of policy issues.
5. Members noted the ongoing difficulty caused by the vacancy since last November 2019 for an independent member. The unusual circumstances of the pandemic were understood to have affected recruitment. It was agreed to press the Cabinet Office for a competition to be launched as soon as practicable.

**HOLAC Secretariat
October 2020**