

# HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION MINUTES

3 December 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**

## **Political peerages**

1. The Commission undertook its vetting duties in respect of a number of political peerage nominations.

## **Non-party-political peerages**

2. The Commission received an update on the vetting for its preferred non-party-political nominees for the crossbenches. The Chair would write to the Prime Minister to propose the names.

## **Policy**

3. The Commission discussed the current arrangements for the entry to the Lords of senior legal officials. There was no longer an automatic route to a peerage for those that retire from the Supreme Court or others who hold high judicial office. Members agreed that it was right that such appointments were no longer automatic. The Commission was further conscious of the pressure of numbers in the Lords and the House's stated desire to better manage its size. Notwithstanding that concern, an unintended consequence might be the inadvertent omission of the public service experience that former members of senior judiciary can provide. Members agreed that it would be right to highlight this issue to the Prime Minister.

**HOLAC Secretariat  
December 2020**