



HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

24 February 2021

Two new non-party-political peers – House of Lords Appointments Commission

Two new non-party-political peers recommended by the **independent House of Lords Appointments Commission** were announced today.

The new peers are:

- Professor Dame Susan Black DBE, an outstanding forensic anthropologist, anatomist and academic
- Sir Amyas Morse, a highly regarded accountant and former Comptroller and Auditor General of the National Audit Office who helped Parliament hold the government to account on behalf of the taxpayer.

They will sit on the crossbenches.

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.**
2. The **House of Lords Appointments Commission** is an independent non-statutory advisory body set up by the 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.
3. Further information on the Appointments Commission can be obtained from: **<http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>**
4. **Professor Dame Susan Black DBE** is a Scottish forensic anthropologist, anatomist and academic. She is the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Engagement at Lancaster University. From 2003 to 2018, she was Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology at the University of Dundee. Professor Black is the current President of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. Her forensic expertise has been crucial to a number of high-profile criminal cases, including the conviction of Scotland's largest paedophile ring in 2009. In 1999 she headed the British Forensic Team's exhumation of mass graves in Kosovo. Professor Black is a Government adviser on Disaster Victim Identification and was awarded the OBE in 2001 for her work in

Kosovo. In 2003 she undertook two tours to Iraq. In 2005 she participated in the UK's contribution to the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification operation as part of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami international response. In 2003 she was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology at the University of Dundee and in 2008 became head of the newly created Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification running undergraduate courses in forensic anthropology and postgraduate courses in anatomy and advanced forensic anthropology. This department trained the UK National Disaster Victim Identification (UK DVI) response team for police and scientists in advanced mortuary practices. In 2008 a research database of hand images was created to combat the sexual exploitation of children. This has allowed her team to build up a classification of anatomical features that can aid confirmation of the identification of individuals perpetrating child sexual abuse. Her team are the only researchers undertaking this work in the UK and Europe and relevant cases referred to the National Crime Agency come to her. She has also been a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Young Persons Committee where she had active involvement in their outreach programmes. She was honoured with their Inspiration Award in 2008. In 2008 she also received the Lucy Mair Medal from the Royal Anthropological Institute and a police commendation for DVI training. In 2009 she was awarded the University of Aberdeen's Brian Cox Award for Public Engagement. In 2012 she and her team received the University of Dundee's Stephen Fry Award for Public Engagement with Research, the Queen's Anniversary Award for Higher Education was awarded in 2013 and in 2014, she won a prestigious Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award for her research into identification from the hand. She was awarded a Damehood in 2016.

- 5. Sir Amyas Morse KCB** was Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) from 2009 – 2019 where he did much to improve the quality of audit across government. He was the first C&AG to audit the accounts of the whole of Government and helped Parliament to hold the government to account on behalf of the taxpayer for the use of public money, ensuring the NAO conducted value for money studies in some of the most important and sensitive areas of spending. Working with the Public Accounts Committee, he sought to encourage improvement in public services and his efforts helped scrutinise public spending at a time of significant cost restraint. During his time as Comptroller and Auditor General, he also served as Chair of the Board of Audit of the United Nations. In 2019 Sir Amyas was commissioned by the Government to conduct an independent review into the Loan Charge Scheme, a form of tax avoidance. Amyas was born in Edinburgh and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. He led the Coopers and Lybrand practice in Scotland, before moving to London to manage the London City Office. He subsequently became the Executive Partner of the Coopers and Lybrand UK firm. When PricewaterhouseCoopers was formed, he took on global responsibilities, and served as Global Leader of Assurance practice (audit and related services), and then as Global Managing Partner (Operations). Amyas Morse then joined the Ministry of Defence in July 2006 as the Defence Commercial Director. During his time there he was responsible for shaping the Department's relationship with industry and he played a key role in the agreement of strategic commercial

arrangements. More widely across government, he served as a member of the Major Projects Review Group, the Public Sector Board of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, and on a National Health Service Project Board. He was awarded a Knighthood in 2014.

6. The House of Lords Appointments Commission has now recommended a total of 72 non-party-political peerages (since 2000) to the Prime Minister, drawn from approximately 5,600 nominations.
7. The Commission last recommended non-party-political peers in June 2018.
8. The Commission also vets nominations for life peers, including those nominated by the UK political parties, for propriety.
9. The membership of the House of Lords Appointments Commission currently comprises three independent members: Lord (Paul) Bew (Chairman), Rt Hon and Rt Rev Lord (Richard) Chartres, The Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, Mrs Fionuala Jay-O'Boyle 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 (Kate) Parminter (Liberal Democrat). There is a vacancy for an independent member following the resignation of Charles Moore in 2019. The Chairman and independent members are selected through open competition under the Governance Code for Public Appointments.