

BARONESS DEECH - NEW CHAIR OF THE INDEPENDENT HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

Baroness (Ruth) Deech has taken up appointment as Chair of the [Independent House of Lords Appointments Commission](#) today, [following pre-appointment scrutiny by the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee](#).

Baroness Deech was appointed by the Prime Minister following an open competition, under the Cabinet Office Governance Code for Public Appointments. Her appointment is for a five-year, non-renewable term.

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 74 non-party-political peerages (since 2000) to the Prime Minister, drawn from well over 5,600 nominations. The Commission also vets nominations for life peers, including those nominated by the UK political parties, for propriety.

3. **Baroness Deech** taught law for many years at Oxford University and elsewhere, has written extensively about family law, and was appointed an honorary King's Counsel. She was Principal of St Anne's College Oxford and a Pro Vice-Chancellor. She took on extensive regulatory roles including Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which oversees assisted reproduction; Chair of the Bar Standards Board, which sets standards of conduct for barristers and their training; and was the first Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education, dealing with student complaints. She has also been a Governor of the BBC, a trustee of the Rhodes Scholarships and the Mandela-Rhodes Foundation and a Bencher of the Inner Temple. She was appointed DBE in 2003 and as a life peer in 2005 having applied through the House of Lords Appointments Commission's open, merit-based process. She sits on the crossbenches as an independent legislator and has chaired committees reporting on the retention of women doctors and on equality and disability.

4. The full membership of the House of Lords Appointments Commission comprises four independent members: The membership of the House of Lords Appointments Commission currently comprises three independent members: Baroness (Ruth) Deech (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: Baroness Taylor of Bolton PC (Labour), Baroness (Sheila) Noakes DBE (Conservative) and Baroness (Kate) Parminter (Liberal Democrat). There is a vacancy for the fourth 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. The Chairman and independent members are selected through open competition.

4. Baroness Deech takes over from Lord Bew, who completed his five-year term as Chair on 10 November 2023. The appointment is for a five-year non-renewal term. She 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.