

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION MINUTES

17 July 2023
1 Horse Guards Road

Attendees: The Rt Hon the Lord Bew, The Baroness Noakes DBE, The Rt Hon the Baroness Taylor, The Baroness Parminter, Dame Fionnuala O'Boyle DBE, The Rt Rev the Lord Chartres GCVO, Secretariat and Press Officer

Apologies

All members were in attendance.

Reflections on the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP's Resignation List

1. The Commission discussed the handling and reception of the Resignation List, considering what might be done differently in future and whether there were aspects of the process that could be improved.
2. It was agreed that the website should be updated to make some information clearer and easier to find.

Vetting responsibilities

3. The Commission carried out its vetting responsibilities as a matter of course, including for the proposed peerage of the new Lord Chief Justice.

Political activity for crossbench applicants

4. The Commission discussed how political activity in crossbench applicants should be assessed, and under which circumstances it may be a bar to appointment. It considered whether there were general guidelines that could be followed, or if a case by case assessment was required.

Sifting of crossbench applications

5. The Commission discussed the flow of legal expertise onto the crossbenches of the Lords since the establishment in 2009 of the Supreme Court.
6. The Commission discussed the candidates that had been considered at the sub-committee sift, and selected a provisional shortlist of individuals to interview. Interviews would be scheduled once the Secretariat had received confirmation from No. 10 about the Commission's allocation of spaces.

Press update

7. The Press Officer updated members on recent press and TV reports relating to HOLAC work.

Any other business

8. The Commission was updated on the recruitment campaigns for the new independent chair and vacant independent roles.
9. The Commission discussed the contents of the Lord Speaker's Committee's fifth report on the Size of the House.

**House of Lords Appointments Commission Secretariat
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