



HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

PRESS NOTICE

27 March 2024

DUE DILIGENCE MUST BE DONE BY POLITICAL PARTIES IN ADVANCE OF VETTING - HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

The House of Lords Appointments Commission will ask political parties to formally confirm that they have carried out appropriate due diligence on all individuals nominated for peerages before it will carry out vetting.

In a change to the forms that political parties submit to the Commission, the Party Chair will be asked to provide additional assurance on behalf of the party about nominees' past conduct and to confirm that they understand the role and requirements of membership of the House of Lords.

The Commission is also asking parties for more information about each nominee, their career history and achievements to date.

Baroness (Ruth) Deech, Chair of the Commission, has written to all party leaders informing them of this change which will apply for all future lists.

Baroness Deech said:

“For party political nominations, our remit is to vet for propriety only. The parties make the choice about whom to put forward and it is for them to consider whether the people they nominate are suitable to become a permanent member of the legislature.

“We want parties to provide assurance that the past conduct of a nominee is consistent with standards in public life and that they understand the role and requirements of membership of the House of Lords. We are also asking parties to set out the career and achievements of those they are nominating, and a description of their public service. These changes are reflected in new forms that we are publishing today, for use on all future nominations.

The Commission's remit is narrow. In the absence of immediate wider reform, we want to ensure that the process for vetting political nominees is robust and more transparent, recognising it is for the parties to choose who represents them in the House."

Ends//

Notes to editors:

1. **Media enquiries about the House of Lords Appointments Commission should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.**
2. Further information about the Commission is available on its website: <https://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>
3. HOLAC is an independent non-statutory advisory body. Established in 2000, its functions are to recommend individuals for appointment as non-party-political life peers and to vet nominations for life peerages, including those nominated by the UK political parties, to ensure the highest standards of propriety.
4. The Commission now comprises five independent members: Baroness (Ruth) Deech DBE (Chair), Rt Rev and Rt Hon Lord (Richard) Chartres KCVO, Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle DBE, Wayne Reynolds, Rt Hon Sir Hugh Robertson; and three members nominated by the political parties: Baroness (Ann) Taylor (Labour), Baroness (Sheila) Noakes DBE (Conservative) and Baroness (Kate) Parminter (Liberal Democrat).