

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES
15 January 2024
Archbishop's Room, Millbank House

Attendees: Baroness Deech (Chair), Baroness Noakes, Baroness Taylor, Baroness Parminter, Lord Chartres, Dame Fionnuala O'Boyle, Sir Hugh Robertson, Wayne Reynolds, Secretariat and Press Officer

Apologies

All members were in attendance.

1. Baroness Deech introduced and welcomed the two new independent members of the Commission, Sir Hugh Robertson and Wayne Reynolds.
2. Members approved the minutes for December's meeting, and agreed that they should be published following publication of the current political peerage list.

Vetting of political peerage list

3. The Commission carried out its vetting duties in relation to the political peerage list proposed by The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak.

Communication plan for change to political nomination forms

4. The plan to introduce the updated nomination forms and to require the publication of the nominee's citations was discussed. It was considered that this represents the evolution of the Commission's previous position on transparency, and it was thought would have wide support across the House.
5. Several amendments were discussed regarding the content of the forms.
6. It was agreed that the new forms would not be used for the current list, but would be introduced following publication of the political list, to be applied to all future political peerage lists.

Crossbench applicants for interview

7. Members provisionally selected a number of candidates to be reviewed in further detail, from which a final interview list would be agreed.
8. Members discussed the current crossbench application process. It was considered whether the selection criteria and processes should be reviewed to ensure they continued to support the Commission's remit.
9. Members discussed the high volume of unprocessed cases, owing to staffing issues and the low number of recommendations the Commission had been invited to make in the past few years, and considered ways in which this could be resolved and how those waiting could be kept informed of their progress.

Any other business

10. The press officer mentioned the news coverage following the publication of Liz Truss' resignation list.
11. The Commission discussed the potential volume of work for the coming year, and discussed ways of handling this to manage the resources of both the members and the Secretariat.

**House of Lords Appointments Commission Secretariat
January 2024**