

## **NOTE ON HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION PROCEDURE WHEN VETTING NOMINATIONS MADE BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

### **General process**

The House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) vets political nominees to the House of Lords for propriety only. Suitability for appointments is a matter for the party leader making the nomination. HOLAC expects that the nominating party will have carried out due diligence on individuals ahead of their being put forward to the Commission.

The HOLAC Secretariat produces a vetting report for the consideration of the Commission. This consists of a summary of media reports on the individual, collated from internet searches and other sources. These highlight anything controversial or negative about the nominee which has been identified during the vetting process. It will also include reports from Companies House, the Electoral Commission, the police, DWP, HMRC and [REDACTED].

The Commission members review the information. Members then take a judgement about whether there is anything contained in the report which raises a probity or propriety issue which might mean the appointment of the individual could be seen as bringing the House of Lords into disrepute.

### **Opposition nominations**

If the Commission has agreed to support a nomination by the Leader of the Opposition and has identified no propriety issues, it will submit that individual's name to the Prime Minister so that a recommendation can be made to Her Majesty The Queen.

If the Commission decides it is unable to support a nomination, it will contact the Leader of the Opposition's office and offer the chance to submit a substitute nomination. That individual will then be vetted in the normal way.

There are occasions where the Commission feels that it is able to support a nomination, but there are propriety or presentational issues which should be flagged. These will be past actions or comments made by the nominee which are not judged to bring the House of Lords into disrepute, but which nevertheless might cause some negative comment in the press and by members of the public. In these instances, and before writing to the Prime Minister with a final decision, the Commission will contact the office of the Leader of the Opposition to raise any issues. The Leader will be given the opportunity to comment or to withdraw that nominee and replace them with a substitute, if that is felt appropriate.

If the nomination proceeds, the presentational issue and the comment by the Leader of the Opposition will be flagged in HOLAC's final letter to the Prime Minister.