

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

13 May 2024

Archbishop's Room, Millbank House

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

Guests: Sir Peter Riddell CBE, Professor Robert Hazell (first item only)

Apologies: None

Presentation from The Constitution Unit, UCL

1. Before starting, the HOLAC press officer declared an interest, as she works part time with CSPL and ACOBA, both of which have discussed this work previously with The UCL Constitution Unit.
2. Sir Peter Ridell and Professor Robert Hazell joined the Commission to speak about their report 'Trust in public life: restoring the role of the constitutional watchdogs'. The report discussed the powers of the watchdogs and considered how they might be strengthened.
3. Following the presentation, the members discussed some of The Constitution Unit's work.
4. Sir Peter and Professor Hazell left the meeting to allow members to discuss the confidential work of the Commission.

Vetting of the Dissolution of Parliament List 2024

5. The Commission carried out its vetting responsibilities for the individuals nominated on the Dissolution of Parliament list. This included discussion on several policy issues related to the list.
6. The political members registered interests, having met the political nominees included on the list; however no members felt there was sufficient conflict of interest to require recusal, in line with the Commission's internal recusal policy.
7. Wayne Reynolds acknowledged a declaration of interest that the NFU were a professional client of his company in 2016/17, though he did not work directly with Minette Batters (who was at that time Vice-President of the NFU).