

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

18 March 2024

Archbishop's Room, Millbank House

Attendees: Baroness Deech (Chair), Baroness Noakes, Baroness Taylor, Baroness Parminter, Sir Hugh Robertson, Wayne Reynolds, Secretariat and Press Officer

Apologies

Dame Fionnuala O'Boyle, Lord Chartres

HOLAC recusal policy

1. The members discussed the proposed recusal policy to formalise the Commission's approach around declaring conflicts of interest. Members agreed that the document was reasonable, and that it could be published on the Commission's website.

Assessment of crossbench interview candidates

2. The Commission discussed the ongoing crossbench application process following interviews that took place in February.
3. Members discussed the backlog of crossbench applications and considered ways in which this could be reduced.

Views on the annual report

4. Members agreed that the more information which could be included in the report the better, and supported publishing a report each year.
5. It was agreed that the report should feature statistics on the crossbenchers and the Commission's work should be included. This should also include information on the limited number of appointments allocated to the Commission in recent years and the high volume of applications received. A piece of work highlighting that the Commission was approaching its 25th anniversary was considered, though it may not be suitable for this report.

Any other business

6. The Chair discussed her meeting with the Convenor of the Crossbenchers, and ways in which to support new crossbench peers. It was highlighted that the political parties currently have a mentorship programme in place for this purpose.
7. The Secretariat provided an update on the Chair's meeting with representatives from No.10.

8. Members discussed the fact that both the current and former Commission chairs were scheduled to give evidence to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Select Committee's current inquiry into Lords appointments, and some of the points members felt should be raised.
9. The Commission discussed future planning, and the Secretariat outlined potential measures that were being considered to prepare for the expected increased workload.
10. Members discussed the advertisement for two new independent Commission members on the Public Appointments website.

House of Lords Appointments Commission Secretariat
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