



HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

22 October 2025

Two new non-party-political peers – House of Lords Appointments Commission

Two new non-party-political peers recommended by the **independent House of Lords Appointments Commission** were announced today.

The new peers are:

- Professor Dame Clare Gerada, a distinguished medical practitioner with extensive experience in general practice and mental health
- Polly Neate CBE, an expert in social policy, specialising in housing, homelessness and violence against women and girls

They will sit on the crossbenches.

Notes to Editors

1. **Media enquiries about the work of the House of Lords Appointments Commission should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.**
2. The **House of Lords Appointments Commission** is an independent non-statutory advisory body set up by the Prime Minister to make recommendations for non-party-political peerages. The Commission's remit is to find people of distinction who will bring authority and expertise to the House of Lords. The Commission recommends individuals on merit and their ability to contribute effectively to the work of the House.
3. Further information on the Appointments Commission can be obtained from: **<http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk>**
4. **Professor Dame Clare Gerada** has been a medical practitioner in the NHS since 1983, with training in psychiatry and general practice. She is the senior GP Partner at the Hurley Group, which has expanded from a single practice into a network offering general practice and urgent care services across London, specifically targeting areas of inner-city deprivation. Over her career, she has developed and led numerous services addressing the needs of disadvantaged patients, including those with drug and alcohol addiction. She has focused her career on primary care mental health. Her leadership roles include serving as Chair (2010-2013) and later President (2021-2023) of the Royal College of General Practitioners, where she guided the organisation during significant reforms in the healthcare system. Gerada established and led the NHS Practitioner Health (2008-2022), a confidential mental health service for health professionals with mental health or addiction problems.

She also set up (2019-) and leads the National Primary Care Gambling Service, enhancing support for healthcare patients with gambling-related harms. She co-chaired the NHS Assembly (2019-2025), a national forum that provides independent advice to NHS England and NHS Improvement Boards on how to deliver the NHS Long Term Plan. In addition to her clinical and leadership work, she has been involved in charitable initiatives, most notably as the Chair and now Patron of the Charity Doctors in Distress (which aims to reduce the rate of suicide amongst health professionals). She has received multiple awards for her contributions to healthcare policy and practice.

5. **Polly Neate CBE** is a prominent figure in social change, including housing, homelessness, violence against women and girls, and children and families, serving as the Chief Executive of Shelter from August 2017 until April 2025 and as Chief Executive of Women's Aid from 2013 to 2017. She developed Shelter's long-term strategy, focusing on increasing investment in social housing and enhancing community engagement. She also initiated significant organisational changes, including a strategic litigation project that addressed discrimination against benefit recipients in the housing sector. At Women's Aid she led a transformation programme that improved financial stability and unity among member organisations, securing over £33 million in new funding for domestic abuse refuges and being the decisive influence in the criminalisation of coercive and controlling behaviour. Her earlier career includes a position as Executive Director of External Relations and Communications at Action for Children, where she oversaw public policy, fundraising and communications. Throughout her career, she has maintained high-level connections with politicians of all parties and government officials and actively engaged in campaigning for social justice and equality. She has received recognition for her work, including a CBE in January 2020. She is also involved in various non-executive and voluntary roles, contributing to initiatives in civil society and related sectors.
6. The House of Lords Appointments Commission has now recommended a total of 78 non-party-political peerages (since 2000) to the Prime Minister, drawn from approximately 6,500 nominations. The Commission last recommended non-party-political peers in May 2024.
7. The Commission also vets nominations for life peers, including those nominated by the UK political parties, for propriety.
8. The membership of the House of Lords Appointments Commission currently comprises four independent members: Baroness (Ruth) Deech (Chair), Professor Adeeba Malik CBE DL, Wayne Reynolds and Rt Hon Sir High Robertson and three members nominated by each of the three main political parties: Rt Hon Baroness (Ann) Taylor (Labour), Baroness (Sheila) Noakes DBE (Conservative) and Lord (John) Sharkey (Liberal Democrat). The Chairman and independent members are selected through open competition under the Governance Code for Public Appointments.