



HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION

PRESS NOTICE

27 March 2023

HOUSE OF LORDS APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION – REPORT 2018 - 2022

The House of Lords Appointments Commission has today published a **report** detailing its work from 2018 – 2022. The Commission is an independent non-statutory advisory body set up by the Prime Minister to make recommendations for non-party-political peerages. The Commission also vets nominations for life peers, including those nominated by the UK political parties, for propriety.

During this period, the Commission recommended four individuals for appointment as non-party-political peers, bringing new experience and expertise to the House: Dame Susan Black, Sir Amyas Morse, Shaista Gohir and Professor Katherine Willis.

In addition, the Commission vetted 119 individuals, 109 of whom were subsequently appointed to the House of Lords. This includes 71 individuals nominated by the political parties; 9 individuals who took up ministerial office; 1 judicial peerage appointment; 12 individuals nominated as non-affiliated peers; and 16 individuals nominated for public service who sit on the crossbenches.

During this reporting period, for the first time, the Commission's advice on one individual was not accepted by a Prime Minister. The **Commission** and the then **Prime Minister** wrote to Parliament on this matter to ensure transparency and accountability for his decision.

In October 2022, the Commission **wrote** publicly to all party leaders about the limits of its role in vetting for propriety and asked that they continue to bear in mind the long-established **Nolan Principles of Public Life** as a benchmark for assessing conduct when making nominations for political peerages.

The report covers the Commission's work over four years, from 2018 to 2022, owing to disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic period and staff shortages in the Commission's small secretariat team.

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 in 2000 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. The House of Lords Appointments Commission has now recommended a total of 74 non-party-political peerages (since 2000) to the Prime Minister, drawn from approximately 5,600 nominations.
5. The Commission last recommended non-party-political peers in May 2022.
6. The Commission also **vets nominations for life peers, including those nominated by the UK political parties, for propriety.** You can find information about the Commission's vetting role and criteria on its website: <https://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/vetting>
7. The membership of the House of Lords Appointments Commission currently comprises three independent members: Lord (Paul) Bew (Chairman), Rt Hon and Rt Rev Lord (Richard) Chartres GCVO, The Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, Dame Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle DBE DStJ and three members nominated by each of the three main political parties: Baroness (Ann) Taylor of Bolton (Labour), Baroness (Sheila) Noakes DBE (Conservative), and Baroness (Kate) Parminter (Liberal Democrat). There is a vacancy for an independent member following the resignation of Harry Mount. The Chairman and independent members are selected through fair and open competition under the Governance Code for Public Appointments.