

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2011

Present

Lord Lang of Monkton (Chairman)
Sir Colin Budd
Lord Dholakia
Lord Macdonald
Sir Hugh Stevenson
General The Lord Walker of Aldringham

Secretariat

Ms Geraldine Alexander (Secretary)
Mr Richard Jarvis
Ms Maggie O'Boyle (Press officer)
Ms Beth Watson

Minutes of last meeting

1. The minutes of the previous meeting on 13 July 2011 were agreed.

Chairman's update

2. Dame Juliet Wheldon had retired from the Committee during the summer. The Committee wished to record its appreciation for her work and advice. The Cabinet Office was undertaking a recruitment exercise for two new members; the Committee asked that the Cabinet Office take into account the need for diversity when recruiting new members. It was noted that the new appointments would be made in accordance with the Code of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
3. Members' shareholdings had been published on the Committee's website, in line with the limits set out in its code of practice. The revised code of practice was also published.
4. Lord Lang's interview for Radio 4's "File on 4" programme on the Rules had been broadcast in July.
5. Lord Lang reported on two cases he had dealt with in his capacity as Chairman during the summer.

Outstanding cases

6. The Committee discussed and agreed its recommendation on two outstanding cases.

Compliance assurance

7. The Committee considered the paper on compliance assurance checks and agreed to the suggested model. It noted that it was key to the success of the programme that the right departments were targeted. The secretariat was invited to proceed with implementation of the process and to report regularly on departmental compliance once the assurance regime had begun.

Policy issues

8. The Committee considered the paper on various policy issues. It agreed to all the proposals, other than that of the working definition of an “independent consultancy” which it asked the secretariat to redraft for further consideration.

Draft annual report

9. The Committee considered and commented on the draft annual report.

Revised website

10. The Committee looked at some unpublished pages from the revised website. It agreed that it was content with the proposed changes.

Communications

11. The Press Officer updated the Committee on recent press coverage.

Freedom of Information

12. The secretariat updated the members on recent FOI requests and the outcome of an Information Commissioner appeal.

Any other business

13. The Secretary briefed the Committee on staffing and the office move.
14. The next meeting would be on 7 December at 1 Horse Guards Road. The future meeting dates for 2012 were confirmed.

Committee Secretariat
October 2011