

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

PCC Paper No.5080

Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee has now completed the process of interviewing candidates for the role of public Commissioner. We received almost 3000 applications. With the assistance of Lucinda Bolton, the independent assessor (who has overseen every aspect of the process), the Nominations Committee is now in a position to make its recommendations to the Commission.

There are three current vacancies. The Nominations Committee has recommended the following appointments, which it now asks the Commission to ratify:

Lord Grade of Yarmouth

Michael Grade has been the Chief Executive of Channel 4 and the Executive Chairman of ITV. He now has a portfolio career, as well as running his own business developing theatrical ventures.

Michael Smyth CBE

He has recently retired as a Senior Partner of Clifford Chance, where he developed its *pro bono* division (for which he received his CBE), which became the world's largest free legal advisory practice.

His Honour Judge Jeremy Roberts QC

Jeremy Roberts is currently a Permanent Judge at the Central Criminal Court, and authorised to sit on Court of Appeal, as well as being a member of the Parole Board. He will retire this month.

The Nominations Committee also recommends the following two candidates provisionally to fill any vacancies that may arise in the next several months. It asks the Commission to ratify them at this stage.

Neil Watts

He is the current Deputy Chairman of the ASA, and has had a long career as a headteacher before becoming a consultant headteacher at Suffolk County Council.

Charles Anson

He is a strategic communications consultant, who – having come from a diplomatic background – was Press Secretary to the Queen between 1990 and 1997 before moving into the private sector.

The appointments process took strongly into consideration the needs of the PCC, as well as due regard to equal opportunities and diversity. There was one further candidate who impressed the Committee: **Baroness Jean Coussins** (former Chief Executive of the Portman Group). It is recommended that she be considered to sit on the newly formed Review Committee, charged with conducting an annual audit of the PCC's work.

The Nominations Committee asks the Commission to ratify its recommendations.

We would, of course, ask that the names of appointees be kept strictly confidential at this stage.

SA 4/11

13/4/2011

- (vi) The Commission formally approved (subject to individual queries on specific complaints raised with the office) the following PCC Papers, which had contained draft adjudications for Commissioners' ratification or otherwise: 5042, 5043, 5044, 5045, 5046, 5047, 5048, 5049, 5050, 5051, 5052, 5053, 5054, 5055, 5056, 5057, 5058, 5059, 5060, 5061, 5063, 5064, 5065, 5066, 5068, 5069, 5070, 5071. All papers had been circulated since the previous Commission meeting.

5. Nominations Committee Report

The Chairman presented a report to Commissioners about the nomination of new public Commission members. She noted that there had been almost 3,000 applicants and that, with the assistance of Lucinda Bolton, the independent assessor, the Nominations Committee (Baroness Buscombe, Ian Nichol and Prof Ian Walden) was now in a position to put forward its preferred candidates for the Commission's ratification.

After discussion, the following candidates were approved for membership of the Press Complaints Commission:

Lord Grade of Yarmouth CBE
Michael Smyth CBE
His Hon Judge Jeremy Roberts QC

It was agreed that two further candidates would be approved to fill vacancies in the next twelve months. It was suggested that a further candidate should be approached to sit on the newly-formed Review Committee, charged with conducting an annual audit for the PCC's work.

6. Editors' Code Committee Meeting Report

The Director reported on the latest meeting of the Editors' Code of Practice Committee, which he had attended.

7. Chairman and Director's meetings

Commissioners received an update on appointments undertaken by the Chairman and Director.