

## Meeting of the Commissioners (designate) – 18 December 2000

**Time:** 5.45pm, Monday 18 December 2000

**Location:** Windsor Room, St Ermin's Hotel, Caxton Street, London

**Attendance:** Sam Younger, Chairman designate  
 Pamela Gordon, Commissioner designate  
 Glyn Mathias, Commissioner designate  
 Sir Neil McIntosh, Commissioner designate  
 Karamjit Singh CBE, Commissioner designate  
 Professor Graham Zellick, Commissioner designate  
 Roger Creedon, Chief Executive  
 Peter Hodgman, Deputy Chief Executive  
 Katie Kerr, Secretary

### Action Points from the meeting 18.11.00

1	SY to establish contacts with the new Chairmen of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland and for Wales	Once formally appointed	
2	RC/PH to arrange for parties to be chased regarding response to re-registration including production of a financial scheme	By 10.1.01	
3	SY to write to the leaders of registered political parties to introduce himself and the other Commissioners	Once formally appointed	
4	PH to produce a note on contacts with the political parties and suggestions on what Commissioners might do to help develop relations with parties	By 18.12.00	Completed (note circulated)
5	PH to draft check list to go with guidance to parties on re-registration and Financial scheme content	By 11.12.00	Completed (ECD4/2000)
6	PH to revisit scheme for distributing start up costs	Early 12/00	Completed (ECD1/2000)
7	RC/PH to proceed with drafting the 5 year plan	Before end 12/00	Ongoing (ECD2/2000)
8	RC to provide progress report on preparation for a May General Election for the next meeting	18.12.00	Little change, carried to next meeting
9	RC agreed to prepare a paper on whether to have a Code of Practice relating to campaign expenditure for the next meeting	18.12.00	Carried to the next meeting
10	KK to send out documents to all Commissioners	8.12.00	Complete
11	RC to arrange for the production of a powerpoint presentation for Commissioners to use when speaking at conferences and meetings	18.12.00	On-going
12	RC to arrange press conference and press release	18.12.00 (provisional date)	Await formal appointments

### Action Points from this meeting (18.12.00)

1	NM agreed to make an informal approach to the SNP to offer support and encourage compliance with the transfer of registrations requirements	10.1.00
2	GM agreed to make an informal approach to Plaid Cymru to offer support and encourage compliance with the transfer of registrations requirements	10.1.01
3	RC to consult parties regarding the grants to meet start up costs and amend letter to reflect why Community Councils in Scotland are excluded and to clarify that it is an additional £500 available to those parties who have an elected representative	End 12/00
4	SY/RC to talk to Home Office regarding the publicity relating to the new registration arrangements from October 2001 which will lead to the creation of two electoral registers - an edited and full version – with different rights of access to each.	1/01

5	PH to include negative assumptions in the provision for 2001/2 and the 5 year plan e.g. the Commission will not take on matters devolved to the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly	10.1.01
6	RC to ensure telephone number for assistance that is incorrect on form for transfer of registrations is corrected on form for new registrations	End 1/01
7	Comments on the Control and Reporting of Donations documentation to RC/PH. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RC/PH to expand fundraising dinner example to include need to check the purchaser is a permissible donor</li> <li>• RC to review with DTI and LGA how to inform Companies and Independents respectively of the requirements</li> </ul> RC/PH to review the order of the questions	Comments prior to 11/1/01, document published 2/01
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NM to e-mail RC comments regarding ECD6/2000 by mid January.</li> <li>• RC to consult parties on ECD6/2000 prior to Christmas</li> <li>• RC to report back to Commissioners with views of the parties on assistance grants</li> </ul>	29.1.00
9	Guidance on Political Party Broadcasts and Constituency broadcasts to be considered at the Commissioners meeting on 29.1.01	29.1.01
10	RC/PH to draft 5 year plan for consideration at next meeting	11.1.01

### Points Agreed

1. PG to chair project board for the proposed merger with LGCE
2. David Butler has been invited to speak at the next Commissioner's meeting
3. Monday 12 February press launch of the Commission which will involve a press call at 11am and launch party at Trevelyan house in the evening.
4. SY/GM/RC to receive copies of the guidance about Political Party Broadcasts and constituency broadcasts being drafted by the BBC to identify any immediate areas of concern. The position of the Commissioners will be reserved until the matter has been discussed on 29/1/00.

**Note** – Following the discussion on the role of the Commission in a by-election

The Act provides that candidates can spend up to £100,000 in a by-election (S.132(5)). This falls under the RPA provisions and enforcement is a matter for the Returning Officer not the Commission.

### Date of the Next Meeting

7.30pm for 8pm Wednesday 10 January at St Ermin's Hotel, Windsor Room. (David Butler to also attend)

9.30am Thursday 11 January at Trevelyan House