

MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING HELD ON 21ST FEBRUARY 2006

Present: Lord Stevenson (Chairman)
Lord Hurd
Baroness Dean
Mrs Angela Sarkis

Mr Jim Barron - Secretariat
Mrs Paula Adshead - Secretariat

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Mrs Felicity Huston and Lord Dholakia.

Political names

2. The Commission discussed a letter from No10 asking for the nominations of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to be reconsidered.
3. The Commission noted that the Chairman and [REDACTED] had spoken to [REDACTED] about [REDACTED], and that [REDACTED] its original position – it could not support him now but would be willing to review the case in six to twelve months. The Chairman had informed [REDACTED] that the Commission was unlikely to go against the Revenue's advice. The Commission agreed that:
 - it had always appreciated [REDACTED] advice and would not ignore it lightly now;
 - [REDACTED];
 - it was reasonable for [REDACTED] to insist on there being some breathing space before the case was looked at again; and
 - the leak was deeply regrettable because of the embarrassment caused to the individuals on the list.

It would to write to the Prime Minister reflecting these points.

4. In [REDACTED] case, No10 seemed to mis-understand the nature of the Commission's judgement. The Commission had taken the view that it could and should not come to a quasi-judicial view as to the rights and wrongs of the issues underlying the controversy, and therefore [REDACTED] clearance (or not) by the [REDACTED] was not the point at issue. The Commission had made a