

The Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE



Government Whips Office

House of Lords

Telephone: 020 - 7219 3131

Lord Kennedy of Southwark
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

16 November 2010

The Lord Kennedy

I am writing in response to your contribution to the 2nd Reading Debate on the Public Bodies Bill, which took place on 9 November. I thank you for participating in the extensive debate on the Bill, and look forward to continuing these discussions in the coming weeks.

During the debate, you asked a specific question regarding the listing of the Low Pay Commission on Schedule 7. I can confirm that no changes are proposed to the Low Pay Commission or its functions, and that the LPC remains central to the Government's commitment to the National Minimum Wage framework.

It is listed on Schedule 7 as it was within the scope of the Government's 2010 review of public bodies, and is intended to be within the scope of future such reviews. All bodies within this category are listed in Schedule 7, in order that they could be subject to the powers in the Bill if required following a future review process.

In addition, you will have noted that in my closing speech on November 9, I expressed my intention to bring forward amendments at Committee stage to safeguard the independence of bodies named in the Schedules of the Bill, and to produce a revised consultation and scrutiny process in relation to the order-making powers. I hope these amendments, when tabled, will reassure you regarding the Government's intentions in this Bill.

I hope this information is helpful. I am placing a copy of this letter in the House of Lords Library.

LORD TAYLOR OF HOLBEACH