

CONSULTATION TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITHOUT A COMPETITION: OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS (OFCOM)

The Commissioner for Public Appointments has been consulted under paragraph 3.3 of the Governance Code on Public Appointments (the Governance Code) by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to make an appointment, exceptionally, without a competition.

The Governance Code requires the appointing authority to consult the Commissioner in good time before the appointment is made and to make the decision public alongside their reasons for doing so.

Appointing authority's reasons for making an appointment without competition

The Secretary of State has decided to appoint Nick Pollard as a Member of OFCOM without putting the post out to open competition.

Mr Pollard was appointed to the board of OFCOM on an interim basis, for six months from 14/11/2016 at the end of which time it was intended to hold a competition to fill the vacancy. However the competition was not held as previously signified and the Secretary of State now wishes the appointment to continue for another year given the need for stability and continuity for OFCOM as it goes through a period of significant change and takes on additional responsibilities for regulating the BBC.

Mr Pollard's appointment will be for a period of 1 year.

Appointee

Mr Pollard began his career in broadcasting and journalism as a local newspaper journalist on Merseyside in 1968 and worked for BBC Radio and TV News during the 1970s. He joined ITN in 1980 and became Executive Producer of News at Ten and responsible for major story coverage in the UK and around the world. From 2009 to 2015 he was Chief Executive of Services Sound and Vision Corporation, the charity that runs British Forces Broadcasting and other services for the UK's armed forces.

He became a member of the Content Board of Ofcom, the UK's broadcasting and telecommunications industry regulator, in 2016. He is a Fellow of the Royal Television Society and in 2007 was awarded the RTS's Lifetime

Achievement Award for Television Journalism. He was Chairman of the Society's annual Journalism Awards from 2008-2011. In 2012 he carried out the independent inquiry into the BBC's handling of the Jimmy Savile affair, producing 'The Pollard Report' on the matter in December 2012.

Commissioner's response to the Consultation

The Commissioner for Public Appointments understand that Mr Pollard had been judged to be an appointable candidate for appointment to this post in the past and is content with the proposal to appoint him without competition to be a Member of the Board of OFCOM for a period not exceeding 1 year from 14 May 2017.

This is on the basis that his tenure is not extended and that a competition to fill the position is completed before 13 May 2018.

**Commissioner for Public Appointments
March 2017**