

CONSULTATION TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITHOUT A COMPETITION: SEAFISH

The Commissioner for Public Appointments has been consulted under paragraph 3.3 of the Governance Code on Public Appointments (the Governance Code) by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to extend 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 for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has decided to extend Brian Young's appointment as acting Chair of Seafish until the 31 March 2018.

Brian Young was appointed as Deputy Chair under a process of fair and open competition in April 2015 and appointed as Acting Chair in January 2016 to serve until September 2016 by an exemption granted under the 2012 Code of Practice following the unexpected resignation of the previous Chair.

At this time the Smith Commission report on Devolution recommended that UK Ministers consider administrative changes to Seafish and it was considered inappropriate to recruit a new Chair whilst these recommendations were being implemented.

The exemption was further extended until September 2017 while discussions regarding the Scotland Bill were on-going. During this time a recruitment campaign was planned but could not be delivered due to pre-election protocol procedures relating to the EU Referendum and General Election.

Background

Mr Young's further extended appointment will be for a period of six months and a competition for the post of Chair will be launched in September.

Appointee

Brian Young is a qualified chartered management accountant and currently a non-executive director of the Beverley Building Society where he serves on the Assets & Liabilities and Audit & Risk Committees.

He is the Chairman of the Beverley Building Society and Director General of the British Frozen Food Federation, following a business career with RHM Foods, Sara Lee, Tryton Foods and Sundora Foods. He is a non-executive director of Thera Trust, a charity that has been supporting people with a learning disability since 1998.

Commissioner's response to the Consultation

The Commissioner for Public Appointments has considered the reasons put forward by DEFRA and is content with the proposal to extend the exceptional appointment of Brian Young without competition to the post of Chair of Seafish for a period not exceeding six months on the basis that a competition is held in September to fill the post.

**Commissioner for Public Appointments
September 2017**