



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE
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Dear Damian

I was asked this morning (21 February 21st) by DCMS, to respond to the issues raised in your letter to Matt Hancock on the recruitment process for the Chair of the Charity Commission.

As is normal with most high profile appointments, I reviewed the interview panel report some weeks ago and well before an announcement was made. The panel, chaired by the Permanent Secretary DCMS, was properly constituted with both a Senior Independent Panel Member and an Independent Panel Member. The panel interviewed six candidates, of whom three, including Baroness Stowell, were found to be appointable to the role. The report of the panel indicates that the interviews and the assessment were conducted in line with the Government's Governance Code on a fair and equal basis. Again, as is normal, no preference was expressed between the three candidates judged as appointable. The choice between the three was then a matter for Ministers and the Prime Minister, and I was not involved. It is normal practice for the names of unsuccessful candidates not to be disclosed. This is for reasons both of personal privacy and so as not to discourage people from applying for other posts.

Naturally, I have no comment to make on the other points you raise in your letter which are a matter for your committee and the Government.

All best wishes
yours sincerely
Peter

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments