



**The Commissioner for  
Public Appointments**

**Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE**  
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Robert Halfon MP  
Chair of the Education Select Committee  
Via email

8 February 2018

*Dear Robert,*

I am writing to update you on the progress of my investigation into the recent appointments to the board of the Office for Students.

As you will recall, I wrote to you on January 11th having read the report of the Advisory Assessment Panel recommending appointable candidates. I asked the Department for Education to provide the full set of papers. Some papers were provided relatively quickly, but it has taken numerous further requests to secure the full set of papers, which I now have. The process has therefore been delayed, which is a contrast with departments' usual immediate response to requests for papers under the provisions laid out in the Order in Council on my functions.

I am now in a position fully to investigate and produce my report, which will address both the broader issues of whether the appointments process was compliant with the Governance Code and the particular question of whether due diligence was sufficiently robust.

I hope to be able to send you the completed report soon after Parliament returns later this month.

*All best wishes  
Yours sincerely*

*Peter*

**Peter Riddell**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**