



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE
Commissioner for Public Appointments
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Ashley Heron, Campaign Manager for Public Appointments, BEIS

5th October 2018

Dear Ashley,

MRC STFC Board Extensions and Appointments

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed extensions of existing board members, and appointment without competition of additional members to the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), which are both in the process of closing down.

There are total of 5 proposed extensions to a second term, all of which end on 31st of October 2018.

MRC

Donald Brydon, Chair
Janet Finch, Member
John Brown, Member
Menelas Pangalos, Member

STFC

David (Geoffrey) Price, Member

There is also a consultation on an extension to a third term, which also expires on the 31st of October 2018. This proposed extension would exceed the expected 10 year threshold for serving in the same role, as set out in the Governance Code.

STFC

Michael Sterling, Chair

Although extensions to terms on these boards, to support the closing down process, were consulted on and agreed previously you have explained now that the closing down process has been delayed by issues with asset transfers, specifically partner contracts and workload. I acknowledge that under the royal charters, the councils must have a certain number of posts filled in order for the ongoing asset transfers to continue.

For this reason, I am content with the proposed extensions to those currently sitting on the MRC and STFC boards. You have stated that the councils will close by the 31st of October 2019. Therefore, I approve these extensions up until that date, or until the councils close, whichever is sooner

You have explained that in order for the councils to remain quorate while the closing down process continues, additional members will also need to be appointed on an interim basis. I acknowledge that the councils that are closing down have new parallel bodies as part of UKRI. It is from these parallel bodies that the proposed interim appointees are sourced.

To the closing MRC

Prof Jill Pell, who sits on the new parallel MRC board as a UKRI appointee.

Prof Sir Munir Pirmohamed, who sits on the new parallel MRC board as a UKRI appointee.

Prof Eleanor Riley, who sits on the new parallel MRC board as a UKRI appointee.

Dr Graham Spittle, who sits on the new parallel MRC board as a UKRI appointee.

To the closing STFC

Sheila Rowen, who sits on the new parallel STFC board as a UKRI appointee.

Frances Saunders, who sits on the new parallel STFC board as a UKRI appointee.

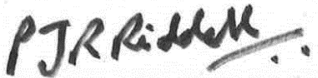
Phillipa Foster, who is a current STFC member of staff with financial expertise.

I have agreed to the appointments on the basis that the councils are in the process of closing, and there is a significant risk that you would be unlikely to attract new members through open competition. You have explained that the proposed individuals bring a great deal of expertise from their UKRI roles.

I am therefore content with all of the proposed appointments without competition.

As with the extensions, I agree these appointments up until the 31st of October, or until the councils close, whichever is sooner.

I would be grateful if you could keep my office updated on the progress of the councils that are closing down.



Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments

PP Jennifer Smith, Principal Policy Adviser