



**The Commissioner for  
Public Appointments**

**Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**  
G/07, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ  
Telephone 020 7271 0835

*E-Mail* publicappointments@csc.gov.uk

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

8<sup>th</sup> June 2018

*Dear Chris,*

Thank you for your letter regarding your intention to appoint Ed Smith CBE as a non-executive director to the HS2 Ltd Board, without an open selection process.

I understand that a competition was held late last year to recruit for this position, and that no appointable candidate was found. While an appointment made as the result of fair and open competition is always preferable, given the circumstances and the immediate need for expertise on the board, I am content for Ed Smith CBE to be appointed for a period of twelve months.

I note your commitment to holding a fair and open competition in early 2019 to fill this position for a full three year term, to which Mr Smith may of course be invited to apply. I look forward to hearing detail of the timing when this is finalised.

*All best wishes*

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