



The Commissioner for
Public Appointments

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The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP
Secretary of State, Department for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
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14 January 2020

Dear Andrea

Thank you for your letter of 13 January outlining your intention to appoint Philip King as interim Small Business Commissioner for a period of six months, under Section 3.3 of the Governance Code.

I note the resignation of Paul Uppal in October has left a vacancy, and would like to thank Fiona Dickie for acting up in the role since.

This interim appointment will help fill the gap before the post is substantively filled through a competition, and allow for leadership on the consultation around the SBC's powers and reform of the Prompt Payment Code; I note Philip King's professional experience on this subject area from his work at the CICM and your understanding he holds no conflicts of interest. I also note his willingness to step down from CICM to take up this post, and BEIS' plans to launch the campaign for his successor this month.

As such, I am content to agree to the appointment of Philip King for a period of no more than six months, or sooner if the competition to appoint a long-term successor is completed before then. I would appreciate if your officials keep me informed as to the progress of the campaign for a new Small Business Commissioner.

*All best wishes
y sincerely
Peter*

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments