

**Peter J Lawrence OBE**  
**Chief Executive, Civil Service Commission**



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Susie Uppal  
Chief Executive, Press Recognition Panel  
Mappin House  
4 Winsley Street  
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7th October 2020

Dear Susie,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September 2020 outlining the process the PRP has taken to appoint two new members of its Board, following your earlier correspondence in May as the competition was set to launch.

Under para 4.2 of the Royal Charter, the Commissioner for Public Appointments shall be asked to consider whether the process of appointment of that person was fair, open and merit-based, and, if he considers that it was, to confirm that in writing.

We had previously agreed that in light of the current Commissioner's background in journalism, that I, as Civil Service Commission Chief Executive and the head of the Secretariat of which OCPA is a part, would make the assessment under para 4.2 to remove any perception of conflict of interest. I have done this using the information you have shared with me in your letters in May and September 2020, against the provisions in the Royal Charter and the principles of merit, fairness and openness, using the definitions of those principles provided in the Governance Code for Public Appointments.

I am satisfied that the two appointments you intend to make are based on merit, following a fair and open competition, and the Charter's provisions on the selection criteria and ineligibility have been adhered to.

In the interests of transparency, correspondence between myself and the PRP is published on the OCPA website. If you can advise when your two new members are officially announced, I will ensure the website is updated with this letter.

Peter Riddell's term as Commissioner for Public Appointments will come to an end in April 2021. I suggest we review our current arrangement - whereby the Commissioner's role under para 4.2 is delegated to me - once his successor is in place and we can make fresh determination whether that arrangement needs to continue. I will contact you when this happens.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J Lawrence', is centered below the text 'Best wishes,'.

Peter J Lawrence OBE