



**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 6729
E-mail publicappointments@csc.gov.uk

Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

7 July 2020

Dear George,

Thank you for bringing your proposal to appoint Richard Soffe to the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board to me for consultation under Section 3.3 of the Governance Code.

I recognise that with decisions coming on the AHDB's future direction, your wish is to not hold a competition for the current vacancy of the board, and to appoint Mr Soffe directly to represent the dairy sector in the interim. I recognise he has held observer status on the board and has been acting chair of the dairy sector board, and his skills and experience will contribute positively to the work of the main board.

A term of nine months will allow you to hold a competition for a substantive appointee along with other board roles which come to term at the same time.

As such, I am content with the appointment and ask as always that your officials update OCPA as to the progress of the competition, and when Mr Soffe's direct appointment is announced so my website can be updated.

With best wishes,

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments