



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

William Shawcross CVO
Commissioner for Public Appointments
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Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Anneliese Dodds MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

28 February 2022

By email: aysef.veli@parliament.uk

Dear Ms Rayner and Ms Dodds

Thank you for your further letter of 22 February in relation to your concerns over allegations in the media of political party interference in the public appointments process.

As independent Commissioner, my responsibility covers the fairness of the process and ensuring that appointments are in line with the Government's Code. My powers under the Order in Council 2019 and the government's Governance Code for Public Appointments refer to the process and practices of appointing authorities. I do not have the authority to examine the actions of political parties, or their practice in soliciting donations.

The Code states that Ministers can suggest candidates at the outset of an appointment process. Ministers may also provide their views to the Advisory Assessment Panel on candidates at all stages of a competition. Significant political activity - including donations to political parties - should be declared by candidates.

All candidates must then go through a fair and open process and the names of all those found to be appointable against the published criteria for the role, go forward to ministers to make a choice. Significant political activity must be published upon appointment.

To update you on the process of my investigation since my last letter, I have requested the documentation from the National Lottery Community Fund competition from DCMS, who must provide this within 10 working days, as per my Regulatory Framework.



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I will write again to you, and inform the relevant Select Committee, once my investigation process is concluded. My decision on adherence to the Code will be published on my website, along with the relevant correspondence.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any more information.

Best wishes,

William Shawcross
Commissioner for Public Appointments