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Susie Uppal
Chief Executive, Press Recognition Panel
Mappin House
4 Winsley Street
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12 January 2023

By email only.

Dear Susie

It was a pleasure to meet with you in November. Thank you for your letter dated 1 December 2022 that sets out how the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) reached a conclusion for the recruitment process to recruit a new member to the board. This letter follows our earlier exchange of correspondence in September 2022 when the competition was launched.

The determination that the Commissioner for Public Appointments must make in regards to appointments made to the PRP Board as described in Point 4.2 of the Royal Charter, has been delegated to me to mitigate a potential or perceived conflict of interest.

I gave my determination in September to state that I was content that the recruitment process was designed on the basis of merit following a fair and open competition and that the Charter's provisions governing the selection criteria and ineligibility would be met.

I have now reviewed the follow up material that you have kindly provided. I have considered and assessed this information against the Royal Charter and the principles of 'merit', 'fairness' and 'openness' by using the definitions for those principles as provided in the 'Governance Code for Public Appointments' published by HM Government in 2016. I have also considered relevant matters of diversity, management of potential and perceived conflicts of interest and 'Standards in Public Life'¹, which are pertinent to a public body such as the PRP.

¹ Committee on Standards in Public Life (May 1995). *The Seven Principles Of Public Life*.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2>

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I am content that this competition has been undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Charter and that due consideration has been given to the matters of diversity, management of potential and perceived conflicts of interest and Standards in Public Life.

I note the proportion of applicants that reported their protected diversity characteristics increased for this recruitment relative to the last recruitment undertaken last year. I hope that the PRP will continue to build on this encouraging trend and attract a diverse candidate pool for all of its recruitments.

Correspondence between The Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) and the PRP will be published on the OCPA website in the interests of transparency.² Please let me know when the successful appointee will take their place on the board.

Many good wishes for the New Year.

Regards

Kavalneer Walia

² The Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments and Press Recognition Panel correspondence:
<https://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk/regulating-appointments/appointments-to-the-press-recognition-panel/>

Website <http://civilservicecommission.independent.gov.uk>