



**The Commissioner for  
Public Appointments**

**William Shawcross CVO**  
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Dear Chair,

I am writing to update you further on how my office intends to handle the investigation into the process of the appointment of the BBC Chair following recent press coverage.

As you know, the role of the Commissioner for Public Appointments is to oversee the public appointments process and provide assurance that appointments are made fairly, openly and on merit in line with the government's Governance Code for Public Appointments.

My officials requested the relevant paperwork from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on 23 January and expect to receive a response by 6 February.

As I have met Mr Sharp on previous occasions, I have decided to recuse myself from this particular investigation. I will be delegating my powers as Commissioner under the 2019 Order in Council to an independent person who will be appointed by my office for this one investigation. They will have sole responsibility and will be supported by my officials.

The investigation will be undertaken in line with the [Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments \(OCPA\) regulatory framework](#). The outcome including findings and any recommendations will be published on the OCPA website.

Although I will play no part in this particular investigation, I will continue with all my other regulatory functions as Commissioner.

Please contact my officials should you or your Committee need any further information.

I will be copying this letter to the government and Ms Lucy Powell MP (Shadow Secretary of State for DCMS) given their interest in this matter and I will place a copy of this letter on the OCPA website.

**William Shawcross**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**