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Susie Uppal
Chief Executive, Press Recognition Panel
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22 September 2022

By email only

Dear Susie

Thank you for your letter of 5 September 2022 setting out the steps that the Press Recognition Panel (PRP) has taken to initiate the appointment process for a new member of its Board.

I have recently been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer for the Civil Service Commission, the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (ACOBA) and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). I understand that under para 4.2 of the Royal Charter On Self-Regulation of the Press (2011) the Commissioner for Public Appointments normally considers whether the process to appoint a Board member is designed to ensure that the appointment is made on the basis of merit, fairness, and openness. The Commissioner's consideration is then confirmed in a letter to the PRP which is subsequently published. You will be aware that the current Commissioner is recused from this assessment and I have therefore taken advice from OCPA officials to make a determination under para 4.2 on behalf of OCPA.

Thank you for the information regarding the recruitment for a Board member as set out in your letter and in the accompanying recruitment competition material. I note the PRP's stated intention to advertise widely, to recruit on the basis of the requirements as laid out in the Royal Charter, to be purposeful in the consideration of diversity and to include an independent member to sit on the recruitment Panel. I have considered this information against the Royal Charter and the principles of merit, fairness and openness, using the definitions of those principles as provided in the 'Governance Code for Public Appointments'. It is important that potential applicants and the general public have confidence in the recruitment processes that the PRP follow in line with the requirements of the Royal Charter; I propose that the

PRP takes the opportunity to specifically highlight the values of merit, openness and fairness explicitly and prominently in all future recruitment competition materials.

In regards to this specific recruitment I am content that the process is designed to appoint a new member on the basis of merit following a fair and open competition and that the Charter's provisions governing the selection criteria and ineligibility will be adhered.

The role has been launched and you will be sending further information to me regarding the conclusion of the competition. I request that you send that information at an early stage to allow for my determination to be sent in good time so it is published at the earliest opportunity on [www.https://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk](https://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk) following the PRP Board's decision to appoint from this competition. Correspondence between OCPA and the PRP will be published on the above referenced website in the interests of transparency.

I look forward to hearing more from you as the competition concludes to provide further assurance when a candidate is appointed. I wish you all the best for a successful recruitment.

Regards

Kavalneer Walia
Chief Executive