

PRESS NOTICE

28 April 2023

## **BBC CHAIR PUBLIC APPOINTMENT PROCESS - ADAM HEPPINSTALL KC REPORT PUBLISHED**

The Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments has today published the report by Adam Heppinstall KC on the public appointment process for the BBC Chair.

The report considers whether the appointment process, managed by the then Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in February 2021, was in line with the [Governance Code and Principles for Public Appointments](#).

Adam Heppinstall KC was appointed to lead this inquiry following the recusal of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, Mr William Shawcross.

[Download the report](#)

### **Notes to Editors**

1. Media enquiries about the work of the Commissioner for Public Appointments to be directed to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.
2. Media enquiries about the DCMS public appointment process should be directed to DCMS press office on 020 8080 3054
3. [The role of the Commissioner for Public Appointments](#) is to regulate public appointments and provide independent assurance that appointments by Ministers to the boards of public bodies are made in accordance with the [Governance Code and principles for Public Appointments](#).
4. The Commissioner does not have the remit to make or terminate a public appointment. The public appointment process is managed by the government department; Ministers select the successful candidate from a list of candidates judged as appointable by the Advisory Assessment Panel.
5. Adam Heppinstall KC's inquiry was carried out under the [Commissioner's powers set out in the Public Appointments Order in Council 2019](#) to consider whether the public appointment process for the Chair of the BBC Board, managed by the then Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in 2021, was conducted in line with the [Governance Code and principles for Public Appointments](#).

6. The Commissioner also has a duty under the BBC Charter (article 22(3)) to ensure that the appointment of the Chair of the BBC Board is made in accordance with the Governance Code.
7. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has provided OCPA with information that Mr Heppinstall required for the purposes of this Inquiry. Mr William Shawcross, the Commissioner for Public Appointments, recused himself and played no part in this Inquiry, its findings and recommendations.
8. The post of an independent Commissioner for Public Appointments was created in 1995 following publication of a report by the Committee on Standards in Public Life chaired by Lord Nolan.
9. Find out more about the role of the Commissioner [here](#).
10. You can follow the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments on Twitter @publicapptscomm