

DECISION NOTICE

Breach of Section 6.2 of the Governance Code: failing to consult the Commissioner on the Senior Independent Panel Member before campaign launch

Appointing authority: Welsh Government

Public body: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCANHW)

Role: Chair

1. On 9 April 2026, the Commissioner for Public Appointments was consulted by Welsh Government officials on the use of Pippa Britton OBE as the Senior Independent Panel Member for the campaign to appoint the Chair of RCANHW. However, the campaign had already been launched on 6 March 2026 and closed to applications on 6 April 2026.
2. Section 6.2 of the Governance Code on Public Appointments states:

Ministers must agree who the SIPM should be for each competition and should consult the Commissioner for Public Appointments ahead of the process commencing. Sufficient time should be built in for the Commissioner to discuss with either or both of the Minister or SIPM before the competition goes live.
3. The Code is clear - the Commissioner must be consulted on a proposed SIPM ahead of the campaign being launched. In this case, the Welsh Government consulted the Commissioner after the campaign launched. On that basis, the Commissioner finds a breach of Section 6.2.
4. The Welsh Government has also conceded that this is a breach. It will be noted in the Commissioner's annual report for 2026-27.