

# Justice Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA  
Tel 020 7219 8196/8198 Email [justicecom@parliament.uk](mailto:justicecom@parliament.uk)  
Website [www.parliament.uk/justicecttee](http://www.parliament.uk/justicecttee)

Robert Buckland QC MP  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of State for Justice  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

1 April 2020

Thank you for your letter of 18 March informing me of the appointment of the first Member of the Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizen's Rights Agreements (IMA).

I welcome the temporary appointment of Dr Katheryn Chamberlain and recognise the need for an interim Chief Executive of the IMA to ensure that it is fully operational by the end of 2020.

I would like to ask that the preferred candidate for appointment as Chair of the IMA appear before the Justice Committee in a pre-appointment hearing. The IMA will play an important role in monitoring the Government's commitments to citizens' rights under agreements made with the EU and the EEA/EFTA states. As an Arm's Length Body of the Ministry of Justice, it must act, and be seen to act, independently of Ministers and the Government. Therefore, while it is not currently among the positions subject to pre-appointment scrutiny by the Committee, it would seem appropriate that the suitability of the prospective Chair of the IMA be scrutinised by Parliament before their appointment is confirmed.

I look forward to receiving your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Sir Robert Neill MP**  
Chair  
Justice Committee



Ministry  
of Justice

The Right Honourable  
**Robert Buckland QC MP**  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of  
State for Justice

Sir Robert Neill MP  
Chair of the Justice Committee  
House of Commons  
SW1A 0AA

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Bob,

### **INDEPENDENT MONITORING AUTHORITY: APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

I am writing to let you know about the appointment of the first Member of the Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements (IMA).

As I am sure you are aware, the IMA is a new public body, recently established under the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 (EUWAA 2020). The role of the IMA is to monitor the UK's implementation and application of the agreements it has made with the EU, and the EEA/EFTA states, in relation to citizens' rights. Establishing the IMA fulfils a central and crucial commitment that the Government has made in those international agreements. The IMA will be an Arm's Length Body of the Ministry of Justice, but operationally independent of Government.

The EUWAA 2020 includes provision for me to appoint an Interim Chief Executive of the IMA. The post-holder is an executive Member of the IMA, and will be in post until the first Chief Executive is appointed by the Chair and non-executive Members of the IMA, when I have appointed them. This provision enables a suitably qualified member to be appointed to the IMA to spearhead the vital work of ensuring that it will be fully operational by the end of this year.

I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Dr Kathryn Chamberlain, previously the Chief Executive of the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, as the Interim Chief Executive of the IMA. Dr Chamberlain started in post on Thursday 5 March.

Yours ever,  
Robert

**RT HON ROBERT BUCKLAND QC MP**