



Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State

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Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Education Committee
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9th July 2020

I wrote to you on 5 May to inform you of Dame Martina Milburn's decision to resign as Chair of the Social Mobility Commission. I am now writing to update you on the appointment of an interim Chair.

Sandra Wallace and Steven Cooper current vice-chairs to the commission, should oversee the work of the SMC in the interim period, while we recruit a permanent successor

Sandra and Steven have the necessary skills and experience to lead the Commission over the interim period and they have already undergone due process to become Commissioners. The interim- appointment will enable the Commission to work collaboratively with Ministers and officials across Whitehall to deliver an uninterrupted work programme and lead the way on levelling up. This will ensure that social mobility continues to be a priority for this Government while the public appointment process of a permanent Chair takes place.

Sandra is Managing Partner UK and Joint Managing Director Europe at DLA Piper. She is one of the most senior female lawyers in the UK and has previously headed DLA Piper's UK Employment group. The Powerlist 2020 recognised Sandra as one of the top 100 most influential black people in Britain.

Steven is Chief Executive Officer at C.Hoare & Co. He has 32 years of banking experience, most recently as chief executive officer of Barclaycard Business. He was CEO of personal banking at Barclays for both the UK and Europe and prior to this, CEO Business Banking. Steven sits on a number of advisory boards. He is a Non-Executive Director at Robert Walters PLC and the Financial Services Compensations Scheme and is an Alumnus of Harvard Business School.

I will be launching an open recruitment process for Dame Martina's successor as Chair of the SMC in due course.

Copy: Letter to Commissioner for Public Appointments

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a large 'G'.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education