



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

22 June 2020

Rt Hon Mel Stride MP
Chair of the Treasury Select Committee
House of Commons
Committee Office
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mel,

APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I write to inform you that I will today announce the appointment of Nikhil Rathi as Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Nikhil is a world-class leader in financial services and appointing him to this position fulfils mine and the Economic Secretary's commitment to appointing an exceptional leader at the helm of this organisation. The FCA faces a number of significant challenges at this time. It is playing a critical role in the UK's economic response to the challenges posed by Covid-19, as well as ensuring that our financial sector is well-prepared for the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the EU. This appointment will ensure strong and effective leadership of the FCA at this crucial time.

The Treasury conducted a thorough and extensive search, receiving 59 applications of candidates from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. I am pleased to report that, despite the disruptions caused by Covid-19, the appointment has been made in line with our original timetable.

As mentioned in the Economic Secretary's letter to you of 19 February 2020, the Treasury wishes to enable proper scrutiny of the appointments it makes to public bodies, which is a valuable and important part of the appointment process. Under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), the Treasury Select Committee (TSC) has a three-month window, starting on the day the appointment is announced, to decide whether to hold a pre-commencement hearing. The appointee will not begin in their position until this hearing has taken place, or the three-month period has elapsed. Should the TSC recommend in its pre-commencement hearing report that the Government's FCA Chief Executive appointee be put as a motion to the House of Commons, the Government will make time for this motion and respect the decision of the House.

My officials will now liaise with the TSC Secretariat to ensure the Committee is able to scrutinise the appointment at the earliest opportunity. I would be grateful if you could

confirm with them the date at which you propose to conduct Nikhil's the pre-commencement hearing.

Further details on Nikhil's appointment can be found in the press release enclosed. I am copying this letter to Charles Randell, Chair of the FCA.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rishi Sunak', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RISHI SUNAK