

**THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
COMMISSION**

**Parliamentary Commissioner for
Standards: Nomination of Candidate**

Report presented to the House of Commons by the Speaker

Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed 6 September 2022

Commissioners

The Speaker (Sir Lindsay Hoyle) (Chair), The Leader of the House of Commons (Mark Spencer), Nickie Aiken, Nick Brown, Thangam Debbonaire, Sir Charles Walker, Pete Wishart, Dr John Benger (Clerk of the House), Marianne Cwynarski (Director General (Operations)), Louise Wilson (External member) and Shrinivas Honap (External member).

Secretary to the Commission: Gosia McBride

Assistant Secretary: Ed Potton

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Introduction

1. On 19 July 1995, the House debated the First Report of the Select Committee on Standards in Public Life, and passed the following Resolution:

“That the appointment of a Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards be set in hand under arrangements to be made by Madam Speaker on the advice of the House of Commons Commission and in accordance with the recommendations of the Select Committee on Standards in Public Life.”¹

2. The Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards’ duties are set out in Standing Order No. 150. They include:

- maintaining the Register of Members’ Financial Interests and other registers established by the House;
- providing confidential advice to those subject to registration;
- advising the Committee on Standards and individual MPs on the interpretation of the rules;
- monitoring the operation of the code and registers, and making recommendations to the Committee on Standards;
- independently investigating complaints against MPs, or matters where she has evidence there may have been a breach of the Code of Conduct and
- overseeing investigations into complaints against MPs under the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme (ICGS), if the case goes to a full investigation, acting as the decision-making body on them, and either determining the appropriate sanction or referring more serious cases to the Independent Expert Panel to determine sanction.

The Commissioner makes an Annual Report on his or her work.

3. On 26 June 2003 the House resolved,

That this House agrees with the proposals of the House of Commons Commission in paragraphs 8 to 10 of its response to the Eighth Report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life,² that—

a) any future appointment to the office of Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards shall be for a period of five years, and shall not be renewable; [...]

4. Kathryn Stone, the current Commissioner, was nominated by the Commission and approved by the House on 20 July 2017, as the sixth holder of the post. Her tenure started on 1 January 2018 and comes to an end on 31 December 2022.

¹ HC (1994–95) 637

² HC (2002–03) 422

5. The House of Commons Commission would like to record its appreciation of Kathryn Stone's service to the House during her time as Commissioner. During that time she has handled a wide range of complaints against Members and has also contributed to the development of the standards system as a whole, for example by playing a key role in the implementation of the ICGS and by her assistance to the Independent Expert Panel as it has established its working practices and procedures. She has shown considerable integrity, strength of character, robust commitment to public service, organizing capacity, energy and diligence as she has dealt with the numerous challenges her job entails.

The Competition

6. The selection process for the next Commissioner followed that of previous recruitments to the role. Following a national advertisement and a search by recruitment consultants, a total of 21 candidates completed an application, lower than the 81 applications in 2017. These applications were reduced through sifts and interviews to a short list for interview. Four candidates were interviewed by a panel consisting of Dale Simon, Independent Expert Panel (in the Chair), Chris Bryant MP, Chair, Committee on Standards, Tom Goldsmith, Principal Clerk, Table Office, Dame Shirley Pearce, member, Committee on Standards in Public Life and Sir Charles Walker MP, Chair, Administration Committee, and member, House of Commons Commission.
7. The selection panel recommended two candidates for final interview by the Commission. One candidate withdrew from the competition prior to interview. The remaining candidate was interviewed by the Speaker, Mark Spencer MP (Leader of the House), Thangam Debbonaire MP (Shadow Leader of the House) and John Benger (Clerk of the House) who reported to the full Commission.

The nominated candidate

8. Following the exacting process set out above, the House of Commons Commission recommends the following candidate to the House, to serve for a term of five years:
 - Daniel Greenberg
9. The candidate's CV is annexed to this report. Daniel is a lawyer specialising in legislation and the legislative process, currently serving as Counsel for Domestic Legislation, House of Commons. He was previously Parliamentary Counsel for 20 years (1991–2010) and Counsel, Office of Speaker's Counsel, House of Commons (2010–16). The Commission is confident that he has the necessary experience and skills for the role, and that he will bring to it the authority, independence, discretion, and strength of character required. The Parliamentary Commissioner plays a central role in building the confidence of those both within and outside the House in the standards system and the Commission is certain that Daniel Greenberg has the right combination of background and personal qualities to meet this challenge.

10. If the House approves the nomination, the appointment will be for a single term of five years. Subject to any necessary notice period, the Commission would expect Daniel Greenberg to take up the appointment on 1 January 2023.

ANNEX – BRIEF DETAILS OF NOMINATED CANDIDATE

Daniel Greenberg CB

Career History

2016 to present	Counsel for Domestic Legislation, House of Commons; Examiner of Private Bills, House of Commons and House of Lords
2008 to present	General Editor, Westlaw UK (Annotated Statutes and Topics Encyclopaedia), Thomson Reuters
2010–2016	Counsel, Office of Speaker’s Counsel, House of Commons and Parliamentary Counsel, Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP
1991–2010	Parliamentary Counsel, Parliamentary Counsel Office, London
1988–1991	Legal Adviser, Lord Chancellor’s Department

Current academic and other interests

- Senior Associate Research Fellow and lecturer on Legislation LLM course, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London University
- Instructor, Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Legislative Drafting, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Athabasca University
- Visiting Research Fellow of the Law Faculty of Bar Ilan University
- Advisory Board Member of the Institute of Legal and Constitutional Research, Faculty of Law, University of St Andrews
- External Trainer, Civil Service College and DODS Parliamentary Communications
- Director, and Member of the Steering Group, Constitution Reform Group
- Editor-in-Chief, Statute Law Review, OUP
- Council Member, Statute Law Society
- Member, RS Surtees Society
- Editor *Craies on Legislation*, *Jowitt’s Dictionary of English Law* and *Stroud’s Judicial Dictionary*
- Consultant Editor, Oxford English Dictionary
- Member, UK and Ireland Advisory Board, Thomson Reuters Transforming Women’s Leadership in the Law
- Occasional Presenter, Thought For The Day, Today Programme, BBC Radio 4
- Occasional Contributor, Jewish Chronicle

Mr Greenberg currently undertakes some private legal advice work and intends to cease this, and his UK legal training practice, once appointed. He also intends to step down from the Constitution Reform Group and as Editor-in-Chief of the Statute Law Review.