



Ministry  
of Justice

The Right Honourable  
**Alex Chalk KC MP**  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary  
of State for Justice

The Baroness Hamwee  
Chair of the Justice and Home Affairs Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

**MoJ ref:** 109601

16 October 2023

Dear Baroness Hamwee,

### **VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

I am writing to update you on the appointment of a new Victims' Commissioner. As you know, the Victims' Commissioner is appointed by me, as the Secretary of State, under Section 48 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, following consultation with the Home Secretary and the Attorney General. The Victims' Commissioner is a public appointment regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

A recruitment campaign to appoint a Victims' Commissioner was first launched in March 2022 and concluded in July 2022 without an appointment, and a new campaign was launched in August 2022. This campaign has now concluded, and I am writing to update you on the appointment.

After careful consideration, I have decided not to make an appointment from the current campaign and intend to re-advertise the role.

I am aware that the Victims' Commissioner role has been vacant for more than a year now and that rerunning the campaign will result in a longer interregnum. I have therefore decided to appoint Baroness Newlove to the role on an interim basis, while we run a new campaign. As a former Victims' Commissioner who served from 2013 to 2019, Baroness Newlove brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role.

Improving the experiences of victims of the criminal justice system and ensuring that they have the support they deserve is one of my key priorities. The role of the Commissioner will be crucial as we continue our work on important reforms for victims, including the Victims and Prisoners Bill which I recently introduced to Parliament.

A new recruitment campaign will be launched against revised criteria which reflect the new responsibilities the role will have once the Victims and Prisoners Bill is passed.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON ALEX CHALK KC MP**

**LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**