



House of Commons
Treasury Committee

The appointment of Antony Jenkins to the Prudential Regulation Committee

Tenth Report of Session 2019–21

*Report, together with formal minutes relating
to the report*

*Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed 13 January 2021*

The Treasury Committee

The Treasury Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs and associated public bodies.

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Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No. 152. These are available on the internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publication

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Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are John-Paul Flaherty (Second Clerk), Kenneth Fox (Clerk), Peter Kitson (on secondment from the National Audit Office), Dan Lee (Senior Economist), Cat Melvin (on secondment from the Financial Conduct Authority), Aruni Muthumala (Senior Economist), Moyo Oyelade (on secondment from the Bank of England), Matt Panteli (Senior Media and Policy Officer), Baris Tufekci (Committee Operations Officer), Tony Verran (on secondment from HM Revenue & Customs), Adam Wales (Chief Policy Adviser), Maciej Wenerski (Committee Operations Manager), and Marcus Wilton (Senior Economist).

Contacts

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You can follow the Committee on Twitter using [@commonstreasury](https://twitter.com/commonstreasury).

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Introduction

1. John Taylor and Antony Jenkins were appointed as external members of the Prudential Regulation Committee (PRC) by the Chancellor on 21 December.¹ They are due to start on 14 January and 5 April respectively, filling posts that have been vacant since January and November 2020. Tanya Castell was also appointed to begin her role in September. The Committee intends to consider her appointment at a later date.

2. We took evidence from Messrs Jenkins and Taylor on 13 January 2021. They each provided a full CV and answered our questionnaire prior to giving oral evidence. The Committee thanks them for their evidence.

3. In this Report, we have considered the suitability of Mr Jenkins against two criteria—the appropriate personal independence and professional competence to undertake the role of an external member of the PRC.

1 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/john-taylor-antony-jenkins-and-tanya-castell-appointed-to-the-prudential-regulation-committee>

1 The appointment of Antony Jenkins

Background on Antony Jenkins

4. Antony Jenkins has been appointed for a three-year term starting on 5 April 2021.

5. Mr Jenkins is currently a member of the board of Fannie Mae, Executive Chairman and founder of 10x Future Technologies, a Director of Blockchain and Chairman of Currencies Direct. Previously, he held senior roles at Barclays from 2005 to 2015, including Chief Executive Officer from 2012 to 2015.

Our evidence

6. In oral evidence, we questioned Mr Jenkins about his personal suitability for the post and the outlook for the safety and soundness of the firms regulated by the PRC. Topics covered during the session included:

- how he will divide up his available time between his commitments on the PRC and his outside interests;
- whether his interests in the banking technology sector present any conflicts with his role on the PRC, whether the Bank raised any concerns over perceived conflicts of interest, and how he will deal with any conflicts as and when they do occur;
- the extent of his holdings of shares in Barclays, his ability to sell those shares, and how he will handle any conflicts of interest arising from his holdings;
- whether he has any other connections and interests from his time at Barclays that could affect his independence as a member of the PRC;
- how he will respond if instances where he is required to recuse himself from PRC discussions are more frequent than expected;
- what lessons he has learned from his time at Barclays, including those pertaining to leadership and conduct;
- the prevailing standards of culture and conduct in the financial services industry;
- the lessons he has drawn from the PPI, LIBOR and other banking conduct scandals, and whether he feels any personal responsibility;
- whether he thinks that Blockchain's social media marketing is appropriate and responsible;
- the future issues for the PRC arising from Coronavirus, including over dividend payments and Bounce Back Loans;
- how he will contribute to the need for the PRC and Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) to remain vigilant in response to Coronavirus;
- the outlook for unemployment;

- the PRA's assessment of the risks to the safety and stability of financial services firms arising from climate change; and
- whether and how capital weighting could help to drive the transition to net zero carbon emissions.

Conclusions

7. In regard to his continued holding of Barclays shares, the Committee notes that Mr Jenkins had no objection to publishing the extent of his holdings and any changes. We assume that the Bank of England is satisfied that Mr Jenkins' holding meets the requirements of its own Conflicts of Interest Code of Practice for the Prudential Regulation Committee.²

8. In regard to the time Mr Jenkins has available for his role on the PRC, Mr Jenkins said to us that he had been told that the role would require a commitment of one to two days a week. However, we note that the February 2020 candidate brief for the role of external member of the PRC says that it requires an average time commitment of 26 days a quarter, which amounts to two days a week.³

9. Mr Jenkins told us that his outside time commitments totalled on average two and a half days a week, divided between one day at Fannie Mae, one day at 10x Future Technologies, a quarter of a day at Blockchain and a quarter of a day at Currencies Direct. We note that Mr Jenkins said that he expects to stand down from some of his remaining outside commitments, and that if the time required for his PRC role rose to over three days a week he would struggle to maintain the role alongside his current outside commitments.

10. After taking into account his oral and written evidence, we are satisfied that Antony Jenkins has the appropriate professional competence and personal independence to undertake the role of external member of the Prudential Regulation Committee. We wish him every success.

2 "Financial Interests [...] Holding a financial interest in a PRA-authorized person, including an interest which arises under deferred compensation arrangements with such a firm, may disqualify an individual from becoming a member of the Committee unless it is not substantial in terms of the individual's wealth at the time of appointment or is externally managed as part of a discretionary portfolio. Existing direct holdings in PRA-authorized persons (provided they have been considered at the time of appointment not to substantially affect the functions as Committee Member that it would be proper for the person to discharge) may be retained but should not be actively managed thereafter other than to sell them, with the Bank's consent in accordance with the Bank's personal financial transactions policy." [Prudential Regulation Committee Conflicts of Interest Code of Practice](#), approved by Court 12.02.19, 2.1(c), page 3

3 Bank of England and HM Treasury, [Candidate brief for the appointment of External Members to the Prudential Regulation Committee Bank of England](#), February 2020, page 4

Formal minutes

Wednesday 13 January 2021

Members present:

Mel Stride, in the Chair

Harriett Baldwin Julie Marson

Felicity Buchan Siobhain McDonagh

Mike Hill

Draft Report (*The appointment of Antony Jenkins to the Prudential Regulation Committee*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 10 read and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Tenth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Monday 18 January at 3.00 p.m.]

Witnesses

The following witnesses gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the [inquiry publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

Wednesday 13 January 2021

Antony Jenkins, appointee, external member of the Prudential Regulation Committee.

Published written evidence

The following written evidence was received and can be viewed on the [inquiry publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

- 1 Antony Jenkins' CV
- 2 Antony Jenkins' appointment hearing questionnaire

List of reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

Session 2019–21

Number	Title	Reference
1st	Appointment of Andrew Bailey as Governor of the Bank of England	HC 122
2nd	Economic impact of coronavirus: Gaps in support	HC 454
3rd	Appointment of Richard Hughes as the Chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility	HC 618
4th	Appointment of Jonathan Hall to the Financial Policy Committee	HC 621
5th	Reappointment of Andy Haldane to the Monetary Policy Committee	HC 620
6th	Reappointment of Professor Silvana Tenreyro to the Monetary Policy Committee	HC 619
7th	Appointment of Nikhil Rathi as Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority	HC 622
8th	Economic impact of coronavirus: the challenges of recovery	HC 271
9th	The appointment of John Taylor to the Prudential Regulation Committee	HC 1132
1st Special Report	IT failures in the financial services sector: Government and Regulators Responses to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2019	HC 114
2nd Special Report	Economic Crime: Consumer View: Government and Regulators' Responses to Committee's Third Report	HC 91
3rd Special Report	Economic impact of coronavirus: Gaps in support: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report	HC 662
4th Special Report	Economic impact of coronavirus: Gaps in support: Further Government Response	HC 749
5th Special Report	Economic impact of coronavirus: the challenges of recovery: Government Response to the Committee's Eighth Report	HC 999