



Home Office

Michael Tomlinson MP  
Minister of State for Countering  
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21 May 2024

Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee  
Committee Office  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Dame Diana,

### **Appointment of 'interim' Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI)**

I am writing to inform the Committee of my intention to appoint Mr David Bolt as interim ICIBI, until such time as a permanent ICIBI can be appointed.

Mr Bolt was previously the ICIBI from 2015 to 2020. Prior to his appointment as ICIBI, he spent five years as Chief Executive of the International Federation of Spirits Producers, and between 2006 and 2010, he was Executive Director of Intelligence at the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

As a former ICIBI, Mr Bolt will hit the ground running and I consider he has the necessary skills and experience to take forward the work of the Inspectorate, bringing constructive challenge to the Home Office and making recommendations that drive improvements across the system. Mr Bolt will take up the interim ICIBI role as soon as practicably possible.

As you know, the competition to recruit a permanent ICIBI is underway, and the panel interviews have now concluded. Given the recruitment steps still to be completed, including the necessary security clearance processes, I anticipate the permanent ICIBI will take up the post by the autumn.

I welcome the Committee's input into this important recruitment process, and my officials are already in contact with your clerks to arrange a provisional date for a pre-appointment hearing for the permanent ICIBI role, which we expect will take place in late June.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael Tomlinson". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping 'M' and 'T'.

**Michael Tomlinson KC MP**  
**Minister of State for Countering Illegal Migration**