

**THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
COMMISSION**

**Independent Expert Panel: nomination
of candidates**

Report presented to the House of Commons by the Speaker

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Commissioners

The Speaker (Sir Lindsay Hoyle) (Chair), The Leader of the House of Commons (Lucy Powell), Rachel Blake, Sharon Hodgson, Chris Philp, Tom Goldsmith (Clerk of the House), Marianne Cwynarski (Director General (Operations)), Shrinivas Honap (External member) and Catherine Ward (External member).

Secretary to the Commission: Ed Beale

Assistant Secretary: Ed Potton

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1. The House agreed in June 2020 to establish an independent panel of eight experts, the Independent Expert Panel or IEP, to determine complaints against Members brought under the Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme. This implemented the recommendation of Dame Laura Cox's independent inquiry of bullying and harassment of House staff published in 2018 that steps should be taken "to ensure that the process for determining complaints of bullying, harassment or sexual harassment brought by House staff against Members of Parliament will be an entirely independent process, in which Members of Parliament will play no part."
2. The IEP's remit was extended in 2022 to include deciding appeals of decisions by the Committee on Standards on complaints under the Code of Conduct. The IEP's current role and powers are set out in Standing Orders No. 150A to No. 150E, and details of the Panel's work and its reports are available on its [website](#).
3. Standing Order No. 150C provides that the chair and members of the IEP are appointed by the House following a fair and open competition. They are appointed for non-renewable terms of up to six years.
4. The first eight members on the IEP were appointed on 25 November 2020. The Chair, Sir Stephen Irwin and three other members, Lisa Ball, Johanna Higgins and Clare McGlynn were appointed for four-year terms. The remaining four members, Monica Daley, Dale Simon, Sir Peter Thornton and Matthew Vickers, were appointed for six-year terms to allow for continuity within the panel membership.
5. The Commission agreed a process in November 2023 to replace the Chair and three members whose terms end in 2024. It agreed that it would recommend that the successful candidates would be appointed for six-year terms to minimise the turnover of the panel and maximise continuity.
6. The roles were advertised on Parliament's website and through advertisement and search by recruitment consultants. There were 177 applications, of which 23 were for the position of Chair. Following a sift of the application forms and preliminary interviews, 14 candidates, including three for Chair were invited to a final interview with a selection panel comprising Sarah Davies (Clerk Assistant and chair of the panel), Professor Clare McGlynn KC (Hon) (outgoing member of the IEP) and Steve Haines (external member of the selection panel, and lay member of the Bar Standards Board).

7. Following these interviews, the selection panel made a report to the Commission recommending four candidates for appointment. There were a number of very high-quality candidates. In coming to their recommendations, the selection panel considered the balance of professional backgrounds and skills of the candidates and the continuing panel members.

The nominated candidates

8. The Commission accepted the selection panel's recommendation and proposes that the House appoint the following candidates for six-year terms to begin on 25 November 2024:
 - Rt Hon Sir Adrian Fulford as the Chair of the IEP.
 - Lyndsey de Mestre KC as a member of the IEP.
 - Andrew Hoyle as a member of the IEP.
 - Wendy Williams CBE as a member of the IEP.
9. Combined with the continuing members of the Panel these candidates will ensure that the IEP continues to have the necessary skills and qualities to ensure that the House, the Parliamentary community, and the public can continue to have confidence in its independence, rigour and fairness.

ANNEX – BRIEF DETAILS OF NOMINATED CANDIDATES

Chair: Rt Hon Sir Adrian Fulford

Sir Adrian Fulford was appointed a High Court Judge in 2002 and was elected a judge of the International Criminal Court in 2003. He was made a Lord Justice of Appeal and Privy Councillor in 2013, and subsequently Vice-President of the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal in 2019 before retiring in 2022. He was the first Investigatory Powers Commissioner (IPCO) from 2017 to 2019. He is currently a judge of the Courts of Appeal of Guernsey, Jersey, and Gibraltar; chairs the Security Vetting Appeals Panel; and sits as a Lord Justice of Appeal in retirement.

Member: Lyndsey de Mestre KC

Lyndsey de Mestre KC is the Chair of the Inns of Court Conduct Committee, chairs Bar Disciplinary Panels, and is Chair of Police Misconduct Panels for six police forces across the Eastern region. She is also the Chancellor (ecclesiastical judge) for the dioceses of St Albans and York and is a Chair of Bishop's Disciplinary Tribunals, hearing clergy disciplinary cases. In her disciplinary roles she regularly hears complex cases of sexual misconduct, bullying and harassment. A barrister of 25 years call, she was appointed KC in 2018 and is a specialist in insolvency, company, and disciplinary law.

Member: Andrew Hoyle

Andrew Hoyle is dual qualified as a registered doctor and a practising barrister, called to the bar in 2006, specialising in medical law, clinical negligence and professional regulatory law. He is an Assistant Director in Fitness to Practise at the General Medical Council where he leads the statutory decision makers who determine, at the end of the GMC's investigation, whether a case closes or goes forward to a fitness to practise tribunal, including cases involving allegations of bullying and sexual misconduct. Prior to joining the GMC, Andrew was Head of Medico-legal services for the RAF and was a panel member for the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service who make decisions about doctors' fitness to practise. Andrew also served for over 13 years in the Army Reserves, and he is a trustee of The Air Ambulance Service.

Member: Wendy Williams CBE

Wendy Williams was one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services from 2015 until her retirement in March 2024, covering 13 police forces and 11 fire and rescue services. A qualified solicitor, from 2003 to 2015 she was a senior prosecutor in the CPS, including serving as Chief Crown Prosecutor for the North East from 2009. From 2018 to 2020 Wendy carried out an independent review of "lessons learned" into the Windrush Scandal, and a follow-up progress report in 2022. She is also a non-executive director of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and a member of the Cambridge Judge Business School Advisory Board.