



Ministry  
of Justice

**Sarah Sackman KC MP**  
Minister for Courts and  
Legal Services

Andy Slaughter MP  
Chair of the Justice Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**MoJ ref:** ADR121400

7 February 2025

Dear Andy,

### **OUTCOME OF CCRC CHAIR PANEL PROCESS**

Thank you for your letter to the Lord Chancellor, dated 22 January 2025, regarding the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC), I am responding on the Lord Chancellor's behalf.

We acknowledge your request for the role of the Chair of the CCRC to be subject to pre-appointment scrutiny by the Justice Committee and appreciate your rationale for it being an important step that will help rebuild confidence in the CCRC, particularly given the public interest in the Chair's position. I am considering this matter and consulting with ministerial colleagues at the Cabinet Office. I will provide an update to the committee as soon as I am able to do so.

Given the need to stabilise the organisation, the Lord Chancellor will appoint an interim Chair at pace to lead the CCRC. This person will be tasked with undertaking a review of how the organisation operates. Subject to the Government's view, we will ensure that the pre-appointment process is followed for the permanent Chair appointment. We will provide further details about the permanent Chair recruitment process once the interim Chair is in post.

Additionally, the Law Commission are currently undertaking a review of the laws surrounding appeals for criminal cases. This department will consider findings of that review alongside the findings of the Henley Report to ensure the appeal process, including the role of the CCRC, is fit for purpose.

As you point out, Ms Pitcher remains Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission. We are considering her appointment to this role in light of the independent panel's comments on her suitability to remain as Chair of the CCRC. We will resolve this matter as soon as possible.

Thank you for writing to the Lord Chancellor on this important matter. We appreciate the Justice Committee's interest and support in ensuring the CCRC effectively carries out its crucial role in the justice system.

Yours sincerely,

**SARAH SACKMAN KC MP**  
Minister Of State