

3 June 2025

Sarah Owen MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee
womeqcom@parliament.uk

Dear Sarah,

Following the report received from an Independent Advisory Assessment Panel, I am pleased to confirm that I have selected Dr Mary-Ann Stephenson as the Government's preferred candidate for the next Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The term of the current Chair, Baroness Falkner, is due to end on 30 November 2025. The next stage in the process is for Dr Stephenson to attend pre-appointment hearings with the Women and Equalities Select Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights. My officials are in touch with your clerks to arrange this.

I am confident that Dr Stephenson's extensive skills and experience in equality and human rights issues will allow the EHRC to take forward its important work. She will soon be announced as the preferred Chair candidate. I will also be launching a recruitment campaign for EHRC Commissioners, which I will update the committees on in due course.

Best wishes,



Rt. Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Minister for Women and Equalities and Secretary of State for Education