



**Culture, Media and  
Sport Committee**

26 June 2025

**Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP**  
**Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport**

Dear Lisa,

Thank you for your letter of 17 June, consulting the Committee ahead of the launch of the recruitment of the Chair of the Charity Commission.

Charities across the country are facing a perfect storm of increased costs to operate, including taxes, wages and bills. At the same time, malevolent operators in the sector, whether working on behalf of foreign regimes, taking advantage of the most vulnerable in our society, or simply not being up to the responsibility of running a charity, are putting immense pressure on the Commission. Having a regulator that's fighting fit, with a Chair that's ready to deal with these challenges and prepared to meet new ones, is vital.

The recruitments for previous Chairs of the Committee have ended with candidates who were unsuitable for the role, or who went through a process that left them deeply undermined from the outset. It is therefore vital that this campaign is conducted fairly, impartially and confidentially until a preferred candidate is in place. It is already concerning that, despite the previous Chair's announcement in November 2024 of his intention to step down from the role, it has taken almost seven months for the Government to begin this recruitment process.

While we have no concerns about the supporting information provided to the Committee, we hope that it will be helpful to set out in advance what we expect to see in a candidate when they appear before us.

The Government's preferred candidate needs to demonstrate that they are aware of the scale of the challenge ahead to rebuild the reputation of the Commission; that they have the experience to meet this challenge; and, that they have the independence needed stand up for the sector within government and against those rogue trustees that are undermining all those who donate to, volunteer for and work with our country's fantastic charities.



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Given the financial, reputational and national security implications of failing to get a grip on the challenges, we also expect to see clear signs from the Government that it is willing to take action, where required, to bolster the work of the Commission and ensure charities are operating legally and responsibly.

The Committee's Clerk will continue to engage with DCMS officials to ensure we can hold a hearing at the earliest opportunity and we look forward to hearing from the Government's preferred candidate once they are selected.

Yours sincerely,

**Dame Caroline Dinenage MP**  
**Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Committee**