



CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Chief Operating Officer & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

Catherine Little CB
Civil Service Chief Operating Officer
and Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary

7 July 2025

Simon Hoare MP
Chair
Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Dear Simon,

UK STATISTICS AUTHORITY CHAIR

I am writing to let you know that last month Sir Robert Chote informed me of his intention to step down this autumn as Chair of the UK Statistics Authority to take up his new position as President of Trinity College, Oxford.

Preparations are underway to launch a campaign to find his successor before summer recess, and your committee will be given an opportunity to comment on the job description before it goes live. Officials will also shortly be in touch with your clerks about scheduling a pre-appointment scrutiny session with the Government's preferred candidate, once selected, later this year.

Sir Robert's departure will be publicly announced today at 4pm, along with an update on the recruitment of a new Permanent Secretary of the Office for National Statistics, leading on the day-to-day operations, and a new National Statistician. It is my hope that all of these new leaders will be in place by the end of the year, or early 2026 at the latest, and that this new cohort can build on the much needed changes already underway at the ONS. I know you will agree that they will be in a more credible position not only to tackle the more systemic issues raised in Sir Robert Devereux's report but also to implement the recommendations of your current inquiry into the UKSA once it is completed.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Little CB
Civil Service Chief Operating Officer & Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary