



Ministry  
of Justice

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

The Right Honourable  
**Shabana Mahmood MP**  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary  
of State for Justice

**MoJ ref:** SUB127094

4 September 2025

Dear Andy,

### **RECRUITMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION**

Thank you for your letter of 15 July seeking more detail about the timeline for the campaign to recruit a Chair for the Judicial Appointments Commission.

The campaign launched on 29 August, and we plan to close the campaign to applications in mid-September. The sift and interviews will take place on Friday 26 September and Wednesday 29 October respectively.

I plan to write to you with the name of my preferred candidate in early December, with the hope that the Committee would hold a pre-appointment hearing prior to the Christmas recess. This would enable the successful candidate to start in early January.

My letter of 3 July explained that the assessment panel would comprise: Lord (Gerard) Lemos CMG CBE (Panel Chair); The Rt Hon Baroness (Sue) Carr of Walton-in-the-Hill DBE, Lady Chief Justice and Baroness (Eliza) Manningham-Buller LG DCB.

There has been a change to the panel since then as Lord Lemos was subsequently appointed a Government Whip. With the agreement of the Lady Chief Justice, I have appointed Baroness Manningham-Buller as Chair of the panel. She has nominated Lord O'Donnell GCB to serve as the third member of the panel.

I have also been reflecting on whether the current time commitment of two days service per week is sufficient for the discharge of the duties of this vital role. My view is that we should advertise the role with a time commitment of two to three days per week which better reflects the demands of the role.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON SHABANA MAHMOOD MP**

**LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**