

BY EMAIL ONLY

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair, Home Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10 March 2026

Dear Dame Karen,

Recruitment of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMCI)

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2026.

I welcome your suggestion that we should include a reference to 'impartiality' in the role specification and have included this in the final version of the candidate recruitment pack.

My Officials have also consulted the Housing Communities Local Government (HCLG) Select Committee who are content and provided no further comments. Following this, I am pleased to advise that the advertisement for a new HMCI is now live with a closing date of Tuesday 7 April. The relevant link is below:

[Appointment details – His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Authorities – Apply for a public appointment – GOV.UK](#)

My officials will shortly contact your clerks to arrange a date for a pre-appointment hearing for the preferred candidate, once identified. Officials at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have also noted the possibility of an HCLG Committee member attending the pre-appointment hearing for the Government's preferred candidate and accordingly officials will liaise with their clerks at the required time.

As you know, the current HMCI, Sir Andy Cooke QPM DL, will step down from his post on 31 March. Given the time it will take to conclude the appointment process, to ensure continuity of key functions within His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, an 'interim' HMCI will be appointed for a period of up to six months, to manage a smooth transition to a new permanent HMCI. I will write to you again very shortly to confirm the details.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime