



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
David Lammy MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

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

22 May 2026

Dear Andy,

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMISSION - CHAIR

I am writing to confirm that I have selected Professor Lynne Berry CBE as my preferred candidate for appointment as Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC).

Professor Berry is the Chair of the Human Tissue Authority and Chair of Governors and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Westminster; a role that she will step down from in the summer.

The appointment process has been run in accordance with the provisions of the Governance Code on Public Appointments save where they conflict with those of the Judicial Appointments Commission Regulations 2013. The role is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

At interview, the assessment panel judged Professor Berry to be a strong and confident candidate who was able to evidence leadership qualities from a wide range of roles. She was articulate and insightful and, if appointed, would be a champion of change.

During her interview, Professor Berry reflected on her leadership style, which she described as 'measured radicalism'. If appointed, she appreciated the need to gain the trust of Commissioners and the Executive Team as well as stakeholders across the wider judicial system. She demonstrated an understanding of the importance of appointment on merit and of the statutory requirement to encourage diversity.

Professor Berry evidenced an understanding of the constitutional framework within which the JAC operates. Her experience of leading other institutions enabled her to evidence to the panel how she had upheld their independence and how she can offer constructive challenge in a collaborative and positive manner.

My view is that Professor Berry possesses the skills, experience and qualities to be an effective JAC Chair, including being able to provide stability and leadership. While the role was advertised for a three-year term, I have decided to offer Professor Berry appointment for an initial term of 18 months. This will enable her to lead the Commission in its response to the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts, while working with us on the Commission's long term strategic direction. Professor Berry supports this approach and I am open to extending her term in future.

Professor Berry has not declared any interests or political activity. Confirmation of this, and information about the campaign, including the role criteria, tenure, remuneration, panel membership and campaign timeline, are set out in **Annex A**. A copy of Professor Berry's CV is at **Annex B**.

I understand that a pre-appointment scrutiny hearing is scheduled for June. I will carefully consider the Committee's report before deciding whether to appoint Professor Berry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**