



Rt Hon. Darren Jones MP
Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Simon Hoare MP
Chair
Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

7 June 2026

Dear Simon,

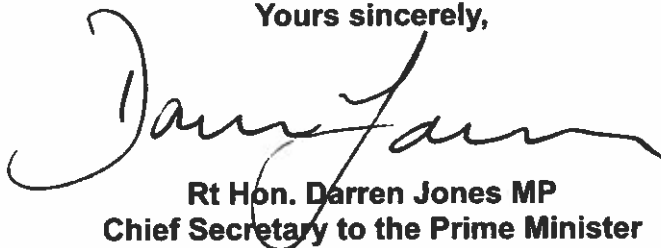
I wanted to inform you that Sir William Shawcross CVO has decided to step down in advance of his September end of term. However, our appointment process for his successor is ahead of schedule and I am pleased to be able to confirm, in confidence, that the Prime Minister's preferred candidate for this role is Fiona Cannon OBE. The preferred candidate will be publicly announced in due course, and I should be grateful for the Committee's discretion prior to the announcement in the usual way.

Fiona is the Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer at Yorkshire Building Society. She recently served as the Sustainability Lead for the Royal Household and was previously the Inclusion and Diversity Director at Lloyds Banking Group. She has served as a Member of the Women's Business Council and was awarded an OBE for services to equal opportunities.

The role of the Commissioner for Public Appointments was advertised between 26 November 2025 and 16 February 2026 on the HM Government Public Appointments website. 71 applications were received and four candidates were interviewed on 12 and 18 May 2026. The Panel found three candidates appointable, and the Prime Minister selected one of these as his preferred candidate.

The candidate pack, Fiona's CV and further information about the campaign, including anonymised diversity information of applicants, are annexed separately. My officials will work with the Committee's Clerk to ensure that preparations are made for the pre-appointment scrutiny hearing and that the Committee is provided with any further information it requires.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon. Darren Jones MP
Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister