



Department for Education

**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education**

15 June 2026

Dear Helen,

Recruitment of the Children's Commissioner for England – Pre-appointment process.

The tenure of the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel De Souza, ends on 28 February 2027. As this role is a Public Appointment, I am writing to you to set out my plans for making that appointment and to outline the type of person we are looking for to fill this role.

I have therefore enclosed with this letter, the role specification, advertising strategy and recruitment timeline.

I would like the post to be advertised as soon as possible and ideally in July for a period of four weeks. This is essential to ensure that an appointment is made in advance of Dame Rachel De Souza's tenure ending.

This is the first step in the appointment process, and I understand that you may also choose to scrutinise the shortlist and undertake a pre-appointment hearing once I have chosen my preferred candidate. I will ask my officials to contact your Clerks about the next steps and attached timeline, but I would hope any hearing could take place in November.

I look forward to the Committee's involvement in appointing the new Commissioner to this highly important, independent role for the advocacy of children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education**