



Department
for Work &
Pensions

GUY OPPERMAN MP
Minister for Pensions

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee

25 March 2021

Dear Stephen,

The Pensions Regulator – Interim Chair

I am writing to inform you of my intention to appoint an interim Chair for The Pensions Regulator (TPR).

The current Chair of TPR, Mark Boyle, will reach the end of his term of office on 31 March 2021. Unavoidable delays in the recruitment process mean that there will be a short gap between the end of Mark's term and the start of the new Chair's appointment. Mark has indicated that he would not be willing to extend his appointment until the new Chair is in place. I therefore plan to appoint an interim Chair to lead the organisation until the new Chair takes up post. This is expected to be by 1 June 2021.

I am pleased to say that we have identified a suitable person for this role, Sarah Smart. Sarah has been a Non-Executive Director at TPR since February 2016 and is therefore very familiar with the work of the organisation. She is currently Senior Independent Director, which means she provides a sounding board and support to the Chair and acts as an intermediary for other directors, and has deputised for the Chair in the past. She also chairs the TPR Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. The current Chair has confirmed that Sarah's performance on the Board has been strong, and supports her appointment as interim Chair.

Interviews for the permanent TPR Chair took place week commencing 22 February. As you know, the appointment is also subject to pre-appointment scrutiny by the Work and Pensions Committee, which is due to take place in April. To allow time for any actions following the scrutiny, I intend to appoint Sarah Smart as interim Chair until 31 May 2021, or thereabouts.

Guy Opperman MP
Minister for Pensions and Financial Inclusion