



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE
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William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

By email: pacac@parliament.uk

Dear William,

I am writing to you following the announcement today that Ministers have extended my term as Commissioner of Public Appointments until this September. The Cabinet Office has shared with me your letter of April 15th on the subject.

In your letter you rightly point to my belief that the Commissioner, like other regulators, should serve only a single five year term to protect their independence. That remains my view. The extension announced today is just that, and emphatically not a reappointment. The Government approached me last month wondering whether I would be prepared to serve for a short period longer to allow time to announce their preferred candidate as Commissioner, to ensure pre-appointment scrutiny by your committee, and then to permit a smooth transition. I agreed provided there was a firm end date of September, which has occurred.

It is very much an interim measure since there has to be a Commissioner to oversee public appointments under the Governance Code and I do not have a deputy, or other Commissioners, who could take over from me, as, for example, the First Civil Service Commissioner has.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your committee over the next few months. I noted your comments to the Committee on Standards on Public Life last month and I will be continuing to address these questions about the integrity of the process in choosing candidates for ministers to consider for appointments. Recent events have also underlined the importance of due diligence about potential conflicts of interest of appointees.

All best wishes

Yours sincerely

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments