



Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By email: pacac@parliament.uk

9 December 2021

Dear William,

First Civil Service Commissioner recruitment

I wrote to you on 12 October confirming that the recruitment process for the First Civil Service Commissioner was making good progress and that we were working towards pre-appointment scrutiny as soon as possible.

I am pleased to be able to confirm, in confidence, that the Prime Minister's preferred candidate for this role is Baroness Gisela Stuart. This will be publicly announced later this afternoon and I should be grateful for the Committee's discretion prior to the announcement.

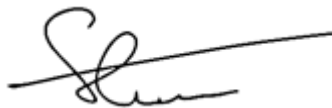
Baroness Stuart has served as the Cabinet Office Lead Non Executive Board Member since 2020 (which she is stepping down from today). She is also the Chair of the Board and the Advisory Council of Wilton Park (since 2018) and will serve out her time in this role. She was previously Labour MP for Birmingham Edgbaston (1999-2017), and Chair of the Board of Vote Leave (2016). Since 2017, Baroness Stuart has undertaken a series of non-partisan roles and now sits as a Crossbench Peer. A CV for Baroness Stuart is attached. In order to manage any potential or perception of conflict of interest from her Cabinet Office and Wilton Park roles she will be recused from the Commission's work relating to recruitment and civil service code cases from those departments for an

appropriate period of time.

The role of the First Civil Service Commissioner was advertised between 6 August and 14 September 2021 on the HM Government Public Appointments website. Eighteen applications were received and five candidates were interviewed on 8 October 2021. The panel found two candidates appointable, and the Prime Minister selected one of these as his preferred candidate.

The candidate pack, Baroness Stuart's CV and further information about the campaign, including 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Barclay', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**