



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

17 January 2017

The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Nicky

Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission

Thank you for your letter of 15 January on the appointment process for the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) Chair.

I am writing to inform you that I am appointing Sir John Armitt as the new Chair of the NIC with immediate effect. This is a critical year for the NIC, who will publish the first ever National Infrastructure Assessment this summer, and I have moved quickly to ensure the NIC has strong leadership in this crucial period.

Sir John is currently serving as the Deputy Chair, and is ideally placed to take on the Chair role, having served as a Commissioner since the NIC's establishment in October 2015. He has an exceptional track record as an engineer, business leader and infrastructure specialist, and I am confident that he will do a superb job of leading the organisation.

The post of NIC Chair was recently advertised as part of an extensive and highly competitive recruitment process to appoint a permanent Chair. There were 23 applications (21 male; 2 female), and 4 candidates were interviewed (3 male; 1 female). This process concluded in April 2017 with the appointment of Lord Adonis as Chair and Sir John as Deputy Chair.

Sir John was a very strong candidate in that competition, and was deemed appointable as Chair by the interview panel. His appointment today is in line with the *Governance Code on Public Appointments*, which sets out that where a vacancy occurs within 12 months of the conclusion of a previous appointment process, candidates can be appointed from the reserve list of the original competition. You will no doubt want to discuss Sir John's plans for the NIC as part of your ongoing scrutiny of its role.

As with the appointment of the original Chair, I would expect future NIC Chair appointments to be made following an open competition. Although the government continues to believe that ministers must be solely responsible and accountable for appointments, I would be happy for the Treasury Committee to conduct a pre-commencement hearing once an appointment of any future Chair has been made.

The NIC now has a total of eight Commissioners. Notably, it has equal gender representation with four male and four female Commissioners, all of whom bring deep expertise and experience in a wide range of sectors. I am confident that under Sir John's leadership the Commission will continue to play a vital role in advising the government on how to meet the UK's long-term infrastructure needs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Hammond', written in a cursive style.

PHILIP HAMMOND