



HM Treasury

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Tom Scholar
Permanent Secretary

The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP
Chair of the Treasury Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1P 0AA

19 June 2018

Dear Ms Morgan,

Thank you for your letter of 4 June on the recent appointment of a new external member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

The Treasury is fully committed to diversity in public appointments, and in particular is working hard to improve the gender diversity of appointments to the Bank of England.

For the MPC recruitment process, Clare Lombardelli, Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, who chaired the interview panel, contacted 87 potential applicants to inform them of the vacancy, 44 of whom were women. Applications were received from 8 women and 19 men, and four women and one man were interviewed.

As you note, the appointment was made on merit. The Chancellor was advised by the interview panel, who assessed candidates against the following criteria: strong and proven economics knowledge and skills, analytical ability, independence of thought, interpersonal skills, communication skills, and undisputed integrity and standing. The Chancellor decided to appoint Professor Haskel, as the strongest candidate, with broad academic experience and expertise in productivity and innovation.

Your letter asked for more detail about how the shortlisted candidates compared. I am afraid that we cannot release this information, for this or indeed any other appointment, since to do so would compromise candidates' privacy and would be likely to discourage future applicants.

You also asked about the feedback which has been provided to shortlisted candidates to ensure that a strong pipeline of female candidates is maintained for future roles. I can confirm that the Chief Economic Adviser has personally provided detailed feedback to all of the shortlisted candidates for this position, for precisely this purpose. And I am personally fully committed to ensuring we build stronger and more diverse pipelines for all the future public appointments that the Treasury oversees.

Finally, I am pleased to note that the Chancellor yesterday announced the appointment of Professor Julia Black and Jill May to the Prudential Regulation Committee (PRC), both of whom are well placed to make an excellent contribution to the work of the PRC.

I would be happy to discuss these issues further with you.

Yours,

Tom

Tom Scholar