

# House of Commons

## Media and Communications Service (House & Corporate)

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House of Commons Commission Press Release

### **Kathryn Hudson appointed new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards**

The House of Commons has appointed Kathryn Hudson as the independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. Ms Hudson will begin her role at the beginning of 2013, replacing the current Commissioner, John Lyon, whose appointment comes to an end on 31 December 2012. The House of Commons approved the appointment on Wednesday.

Kathryn Hudson is currently Deputy Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and board member responsible for the Ombudsman's casework service. Kathryn was previously the National Director of Social Care at the Department of Health.

Ms Hudson was appointed following a rigorous recruitment process using standards equivalent to those for the appointment of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Short-listed candidates were interviewed by a Board that included the Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP, Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP (Chair of the Committee on Standards and Privileges) and an independent advisor as well as senior officials from the House of Commons Service. The leading candidates from that Board were then interviewed by the House of Commons Commission.

John Thurso MP, spokesperson for the House of Commons Commission, said, "The House of Commons Commission is confident that Kathryn has the necessary experience, clear thinking and personal authority for the role, and that she will bring to it the independence, discretion, and strength of character required to ensure that the system of parliamentary self-regulation continues to work effectively."

John Thurso MP said, "On behalf of the Commission I would like to express our appreciation of the work undertaken by John Lyon since his appointment. He inquired into an unprecedented number of allegations against Members at a time when the reputation of the House was being called into question and helped to restore confidence in Members and in the institutions of the House."

Kathryn Hudson said: "I am very pleased to have been appointed as the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and consider my appointment a great privilege. I look forward to building the role on the firm foundations established by John Lyon and his predecessors."

**Notes for Editors**

1. On Wednesday 12 September, the House of Commons approved the motion that Ms Kathryn Hudson be appointed Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards on the terms of the Report of the House of Commons Commission, HC 539, dated 17 July 2012.  
[http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-commission/Commission%20report%20on%20PCS%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-commission/Commission%20report%20on%20PCS%20(final).pdf) The Report sets out the detail of the recruitment process and includes Kathryn Hudson's curriculum vitae.
2. Since August 2008, Kathryn Hudson has been Deputy Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and board member responsible for the Ombudsman's casework service. Her previous posts include Assistant to the Chief Executive at Barnardo's, the National Director for Social Care at the Department of Health, the Executive Director of Social Services at the London Borough of Newham, and Head of Care Commissioning and Health Partnerships at the London Borough of Lewisham.
3. The Commissioner is appointed for a five year, non-renewable term and is not liable to dismissal except on a resolution of the House. The remit of the Commissioner does not extend to the House of Lords.
4. The current framework for Parliamentary standards dates from 1995, when the first Commissioner was appointed and when the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament was introduced. Kathryn Hudson is the fifth Commissioner.
5. The main duties and functions of the Commissioner are:
  - Maintaining and monitoring the operation of the Register of Members' Financial Interests and the other Registers.
  - Providing advice on a confidential basis to individual Members and to the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges, including advice about the registration of interests, the interpretation of the Code of Conduct and questions of propriety.
  - Preparing guidance and providing induction courses for new Members on matters of conduct, propriety and ethics.
  - Monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct and, where appropriate, proposing possible modifications of it to the Committee.
  - Receiving and investigating matters relating to the conduct of Members and reporting findings to the Committee where appropriate.
  - Submitting to the House annually a report on the exercise by him of his functions.
6. The House of Commons Commission is chaired by the Speaker (Rt Hon John Bercow MP). Other members of the Commission are the Leader of the House (currently Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP but Rt Hon Sir George Young Bt MP at the time of the interviews), Angela Eagle MP (the nominee of the Leader of the Opposition), Sir Paul Beresford MP, Frank Doran MP and John Thurso MP (Commission spokesperson).