



Rt Hon Justine Greening MP
Secretary of State

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Rt. Hon Robert Halfon MP
House of Commons
London
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14 December 2017

Dear Robert,

**Recruitment of the Chair of the Social Mobility Commission:
pre-appointment process**

You will be aware that the role of Chair of the Social Mobility Commission is being opened up to a competitive process, following the end of Alan Millburn's term on 12 July 2017.

The Chair of the Commission is an extremely important role and I am writing to you to set out our plans for recruitment and our vision for the person we are looking for. Enclosed with this letter I have included our draft role description and person specification.

This government's mission is to make Britain a country that works everyone, and to tackle injustices that mean not everyone has access to the same opportunities. Our Social Mobility Action Plan sets out the steps we are taking and will take to make our country one where equality of opportunity exists for the first time. The work of key partners, such as the Social Mobility Commission, supports us in achieving our ambitions and focusing on a common goal of equality of opportunity.

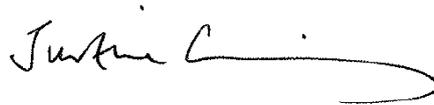
The Commission plays a crucial role in furthering the social mobility agenda, and the role of Chair is an opportunity to fundamentally shape this agenda. The Commission has made a real contribution to this debate over the last five years, and this is an opportunity to build on this good work – conducting new research, providing expert advice, and going further to build a broad coalition for social mobility – particularly with business.

You have previously expressed an interest in the Commission providing advice on social justice. The Commission's remit, which is set out in legislation, is broad enough to allow the Commission to do this, and indeed the Commission is able to provide advice to Ministers on the very broad range of topics that might touch on these areas.

The Chair of this important body will be an influential and credible voice on social mobility. They will demonstrate a real commitment to and existing track record of improving social mobility and have a proven record working at senior level and providing outstanding strategic leadership. In addition, they will have experience of working with business, in order to support the department's goal of building a coalition for social mobility with business and beyond, particularly to deliver on our ambitions of high quality post-16 education choices for all young people and everyone achieving their potential in rewarding careers.

To begin this process, my department will launch the recruitment campaign for the Chair role in early January 2018. Providing you with the recruitment pack is the first step in this process and I would also like to invite the Committee to undertake a pre-appointment hearing once I have chosen a preferred candidate. I will ask my officials to contact your clerk to explore suitable dates as soon as possible after our appointment process has ended.

I am grateful for your consideration of this proposal and look forward to the Committee's involvement in this very important role. I am sure you will share my high expectations of the positive benefits that the Social Mobility Commission and this role can bring to the social mobility agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justine Greening', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

RT HON JUSTINE GREENING MP