

30 Crown Place
London
EC2A 4ES

26 April 2016

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP

Chair

Joint Committee on Human Rights

Rt Hon Maria Miller MP

Chair

Women and Equalities Committee

Dear Chairs

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR OF EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION**

I have seen and noted carefully the points in your letter of 19 April to the Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities, which you copied to me.

I am obviously concerned that your committees do not feel able to recommend that my appointment as EHRC Chair should proceed. In the light of the arguments in your letter which lie behind that conclusion and particularly of my exchanges with Lord Woolf during the pre-appointment hearing on 23 March, I have reflected further on the scope for ensuring that my appointment should not create any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

As a result of this and in line with Lord Woolf's suggestion to me during that hearing, my remuneration as an equity partner at Pinsent Masons will exclude any share of profits made by the firm from work for Government Departments, agencies or arm's length bodies. I should also clarify my position in relation to a point made by the Chief Executive of the Commission in her letter of 15 April to me. If appointed I will cease to be involved in advising government clients of Pinsent Masons in all aspects of that work. Put simply, for the duration of my appointment to Chair of the EHRC, neither my work nor my remuneration would in any way depend upon Pinsent Masons' involvement with government.

I trust that your committees find this helpful and that this provides the additional commitment which your letter, particularly in its final paragraphs, suggests you are seeking from me.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, to the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments and to Sue Gray at Cabinet Office.



David Isaac

cc.

Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP
Sir David Normington
Ms Sue Gray