



CONSULTATION TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITHOUT A COMPETITION: SPORTS WALES

The Commissioner for Public Appointments has been consulted under paragraph 3.3 of the Governance Code by the Minister for Social Services and Public Health to make an appointment, exceptionally, without a competition. The Governance Code requires the appointing authority to consult the Commissioner in good time before the appointment is made and to make the decision public alongside their reasons for doing so.

Appointing authority's reasons for making an appointment without competition

The Minister suspended the Board of Sports Wales on 23 November 2016. All members of the Board were reinstated in February 2017, bar the Chair and Vice Chair, to enable investigations into their conduct to be carried out. At that time, the Commissioner agreed that Lawrence Conway CB be appointed as interim Chair for a period not exceeding one year.

Sport Wales is now preparing a strategic deliver plan, due to be completed at the end of March. A new Chair taking up post in February 2018 would have to take on this work part-way through, which would jeopardise progress already made. Additionally, new board members are due to take up post in October 2017 and would not be able to provide experienced assistance that a new Chair would require.

Against that background the Minister has decided to extend the appointment of Lawrence Conway CB for a further six months to August 2018. A new competition will be launched early in 2018 in order to have a Chair in post by the time this extension ends.

Appointee

Lawrence Conway CB is a former Civil Servant who from 1968 has worked in various roles in the Welsh Office including a secondment to Cardiff Bay Development Corporation in the early 1990s as Assistant to the Chief Executive. Following his appointment Mr Conway led the division in the Welsh Office responsible for sponsoring a number of arms length bodies including the Welsh Development Agency. He was appointed Head of the Cabinet Secretariat and subsequently First Minister's Department in 1998 and served in that capacity until he retired in 2010.

Commissioner's response to the Consultation

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The Commissioner for Public Appointments is content with the Minister's proposal to extend the appointment of Lawrence Conway CB, exceptionally, without holding a fair and open competition for the reasons she has set out.

**On behalf of the Commissioner for Public Appointments
September 2017**

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