



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

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Sam Gymiah
Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation

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Dear Sam

Many thanks for your letter of 6th March on the recruitment competition for the Office for Students.

I am content with your proposed approach both to the interim appointment for the student experience role and with the timetable for holding a competition and recruiting before the end of June this year. I would, however, like to see the candidate pack for the competition for this role.

I am glad to have seen reports of the involvement at the recent launch event which you attended of Ruth Carlson, the interim appointment. She is free, and always would have been, to apply for the longer-term position in the competition.

I am interested to hear of your creation of a Nominations Committee to provide internal scrutiny of DfE public appointments processes and I look forward to learn more about it, not least for its possible application in other departments.

I look forward to your further response on improving due diligence processes and to my comments and recommendations on the student experience competition. I assume also that you will be launching a competition to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Toby Young from the board on 9th January, and would wish to see the candidate pack for that competition as well.

I look forward to keeping in touch. I will be copying this letter to Robert Halfon, Chair of the Education Select Committee and will be putting it up on my website.

*All best wishes
Z Sincerely
Peter*

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments