



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE
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Sam Gyimah MP
Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation
1 Victoria Street
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22nd June 2018

Dear Sam,

Extension of the Interim Student Experience Board member

Many thanks for your letter of 22 June about the appointment of a substantive Student Experience Board member to the Office for Students (OfS) Board. I am pleased that the competition has now been launched and am content with the criteria set out in the candidate pack.

After our correspondence earlier in the year I am disappointed at the delay in starting the competition for the substantive member, and therefore your request to extend the appointment of the current interim Student Experience Board member from the previously agreed date of the end of June until the end of September or until a permanent member is appointed. It is clearly unsatisfactory that the matter cannot be resolved until then. That, I stress, is nothing to do with the performance of Ruth Carlson, the current interim member, with whom I am glad to hear you are happy.

There is no alternative in the circumstances to extending her term by three months and I hope that your confidence that a permanent appointment will be made by the end of September is justified.

I look forward to hearing about the progress of the competition and seeing the report on the outcome of the sift and interviews when completed. I ask that DfE make arrangements with my office to supply the relevant documentation.

*All best wishes
yours sincerely
Peter*

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments