



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE
Commissioner for Public Appointments
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Melanie Dawes CB
Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Communities, Housing and Local Government

22nd October 2019

Dear Melanie,

RE: The Chair of the board of Homes England

Thank you for your letter outlining the Secretary of State's decision to appoint Simon Dudley as interim Chair of Homes England, following the resignation of Sir Ed Lister. My office have been in contact with officials in your Department regarding this matter, and I am grateful for the helpful additional information that they have provided.

I note the exact length of Mr Dudley's proposed interim term is not stated in your letter, other than being tied to the appointment of a substantive Chair through open competition, for which I understand preparations have already been made. I appreciate the efforts your officials have made to ensure as timely an appointments process as possible. While I understand the need for some flexibility when running a competition, especially one with select committee involvement, it would not be in keeping with the spirit of the Governance Code to agree to an open ended term. It is important that all appointments to this body are seen to uphold the principal of transparency, including to prospective candidates for this role.

I would be content with an interim term of up to 9 months. This should allow sufficient time for a competition and provides a definitive end date. Mr Dudley's interim term should end as soon as the new Chair is ready to take up the role. In the event that extensions to the interim term are required, please ensure that these are brought to my attention before they are announced. I would also ask that my office are kept updated on the progress of the competition.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government.

*All best wishes and I look forward to catching up before
(long) success
Peter*

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments