



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE
Commissioner for Public Appointments
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Rt Hon Nicky Morgan
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

13th November 2019

Dear Nicky,

Appointment of interim Chair for Sianel Pedwar Cymru (S4C)

Thank you for your letter outlining your intention to appoint Hugh Hesketh-Evans as interim Chair of S4C for a period of up to 6 months while the current competition to appoint a new substantive Chair concludes.

While your letter was dated the 9th of October, it was not received by my office until the 12th of November. Section 3.3 of the Governance Code states that '*Ministers may decide to appoint a candidate without a competition. They must consult the Commissioner for Public Appointments in good time before the appointment is publicly announced.*' I have noted that Mr Hesketh-Evans' interim appointment was announced publicly on the S4C website, and although the exact date of announcement is not clear, it has been reported on in the media as early as the 1st of October. As I have not provided a view on this matter until now, this is a breach of the Code and will be recorded as such in my next annual report.

However, I am content with the appointment of Mr Hesketh-Evans on an interim basis until the 31st of March 2020, or until a new substantive Chair is able to take up the role, whichever is sooner.

Officials from my office have corresponded with officials in your Department to ascertain the progress of the ongoing competition. I understand that interviews have taken place and an appointable candidate identified, but the competition is now paused for the election. The role is subject to a pre appointment scrutiny hearing, but your officials are confident that a substantive Chair will be in place before the end of Mr Hesketh-Evans' interim term.

I would be grateful if you could ensure my office is kept updated on the progress of the competition once it has resumed.

All best wishes
I sincerely
Peter

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments