



**The Commissioner for  
Public Appointments**

**Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**  
G/07, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ  
Telephone 020 7271 6729  
E-Mail [publicappointments@csc.gov.uk](mailto:publicappointments@csc.gov.uk)

The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP  
Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence  
Floor 5, Zone D, Main Building  
Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

13 March 2020

*Dear Ben,*

Thank you for bringing to my attention the appointment, without competition, of [REDACTED] as the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the medical implications of less-lethal weapons (SACMILL). It is regrettable that I was not consulted on this appointment under Section 3.3 of the Code, as you have recognised. I appreciate your efforts now to inform me and present your reasoning as to the need for the interim appointment.

I recognise [REDACTED] experience and standing on the Committee as one of its most respected members, and appreciate that SACMILL's remit will require highly specialist individuals on its Board to provide the government with robust advice. Nevertheless, I strongly encourage you to use every effort, as you have outlined, to use the remaining 12 months of [REDACTED] 24 month term - to which I have agreed retrospectively - to run a far-reaching competition to fill the position on a permanent basis.

My office publishes Section 3.3 appointments on our website and in this case we will respect the need for SACMILL members' names to not be put in the public domain. I publish details of breaches in my Annual Report, and again I will ensure that the breach is reported without [REDACTED] details, keeping a balance between the need for security with the principle of Openness in the Governance Code.

*All best wishes  
Yours sincerely  
Peter*

**Peter Riddell**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**