



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE
Commissioner for Public Appointments
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The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Floor 5, Zone D, Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your email regarding directly appointing Mark Eames without competition under section 3.3 of the Governance Code, to be Non-Executive Director of the Oil & Pipelines Agency (OPA) for 12 months.

I am content with this direct appointment - it is also my understanding that you wish to act on the advice of the UKGI review and aim to replace this role with an independent NED through competition. A 12-month appointment of Mr Eames will give you time to try and attract a full and diverse field of candidates from which to make an appointment, especially in current circumstances.

I would appreciate it if you could keep me updated on the progress of the competition as it begins, and if you are successful in recruiting for this new position in the way you highlighted in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Riddell
Commissioner for Public Appointments