



**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

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Education  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3BT

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*By email to PublicAppointments.DFE@education.gov.uk*

Dear Gavin,

Thank you for consulting me on your intention to directly appoint both Sandra Wallace and Steven Cooper to the role of Chair of the Social Mobility Commission, for a period of nine months under a job-share arrangement.

I recognise the importance for the SMC to have robust leadership in place following the recent resignation of its previous chair, and acknowledge Ms Wallace and Mr Cooper's experience from their roles as Deputy Commissioners gives them the necessary skills to lead the Commission whilst your officials hold a competition for a substantive chair. I am therefore content for the direct appointment to be made under Section 3.3 of the Governance Code.

Appointments made directly under Section 3.3 are published on my website and in my Annual Report in the interests of transparency. I would be most grateful if your officials could update OCPA when the announcement of these joint appointments is made.

With best wishes,

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