



**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

**28 October 2020**

Robert Buckland QC MP  
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London, SW1H 9AJ

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your letter of 22 October to explain the appointments and extensions of appointments you intend to make to create a new Parole Board taskforce.

I recognise the urgent need to address the backlog in cases requiring initial paper assessment created by the Covid-19 pandemic. I agree that bringing in experienced former members of the Board, and extending current members, into a new taskforce to tackle the backlog is a pragmatic use of Sections 3.3 and 3.6 of the Code to make appointments without competition and extend others in exceptional circumstances. I am satisfied that the requisite performance appraisals and due diligence checks have been completed for all the Parole Board members you intend for the Taskforce.

As such, I am content with your proposal to appoint, without competition, six former members of the Parole Board for 12 months under Section 3.3 of the Code. My website publishes details of Section 3.3 appointees in the interests of transparency. When these appointments are announced publicly, please inform my office so my website can be updated in due course. I would expect to be consulted on any proposed extension of these appointments if for any reason you determine the taskforce's work has to continue beyond 12 months.

I have also noted your intention to extend the tenure, by 12 months, four current members of the Parole Board who have already served 10 years, as per Section 3.6 of the Code.

Many thanks again for your engagement with me on these appointments.

With best wishes,

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