



**The Commissioner for  
Public Appointments**

**Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**  
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Andrew Stephenson MP  
Minister of State for Transport  
Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

30 March 2021

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for bringing your proposal to appoint Sir Jon Thompson as a Non-Executive Director of the HS2 Ltd. Board without competition, under Section 3.3 of the Governance Code, for a term of three years from 1 April 2021. I note the government's intention for two 'special director', shareholder representatives to HS2's board, and the appointment of Ian King as DfT's representative as the first of these, which you brought to me for consultation last July.

I note that Sir Jon is the Chief Secretary to the Treasury's nomination for the second 'special director', and I am content with his appointment for three years, recognising an open competition for this role, as with DfT's Ian King, is not suitable due to its nature as a government shareholder representative. I also welcome government efforts to amend the Order in Council better to reflect the structure of HS2's governance.

My annual report and website details appointments made under Section 3.3 of the Code so I would appreciate if your officials could update OCPA when Sir Jon's exceptional appointment is announced.

Thank you for outlining your intended Advisory Assessment Panel for the competition to recruit a new Chair of the HS2 Ltd. Board. Your officials have kindly provided my office with Ms Nimmo's biography and credentials and I agree she will bring independent rigor to the Panel's work. I intend to write to Ms Nimmo once she is in place; if your officials could include my office in correspondence to her under Section 6.3 of the Code that would be most helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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