



**The Commissioner for  
Public Appointments**

**Rt Hon Peter Riddell CBE**  
**Commissioner for Public Appointments**  
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Dear Alice Perciato,

Thank you for your letter outlining ministers' proposals as the current chair of HS2, Allan Cook CBE, completes his term this weekend and the competition for a new chair for HS2 continues.

I appreciate your courtesy in informing me, and the Transport Select Committee, that the duties of the chair of HS2 are being spread across a number of members of the HS2 board, and that in particular, Ian King, the shareholder representative on the board, will take on the duties of chairing board meetings in the absence of a formally appointed chair.

I note that the competition for a new chair is in its advanced stages. Consequently, I would like to suggest that Ian King's chairing arrangement is put in place until 30 September or when a permanent appointee can take up the position. If a permanent chair is not in place by then, please inform me if ministers would like to continue the arrangement, as you have done in your letter of 27 July.

I will place a copy of this letter on my website in the interests of transparency on regulated appointments. I hope the current competition concludes successfully.

All best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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