



# Non-Executive Director of the Health Research Authority

## Information pack for applicants

**Closing date: Midday on Tuesday, 17 September 2024**  
**Reference no: VAC-7936**

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# Section 1 – The Role

## *Quote from HRA Chair Professor Sir Terence Stephenson:*

The UK is amongst the best places to do research in the world and the Health Research Authority plays a key role in supporting this, facilitating, and encouraging research, the conduct of which is safe and ethical for participants and the general public.

Our vision is for high quality health and social care research today that improves everyone's health and wellbeing tomorrow. The HRA Board plays a key role in leading the organisation in the delivery of this ambition. The Non-Executive Director role is one which is intellectually stimulating and offers the opportunity to make a real difference.

We are looking for three Non-Executive Directors to complement the range of skills and experience we currently have on the Board. If you have the skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm to help the HRA to continue to deliver its ambition I would encourage you to apply.

## 1.1 Role description and person specification

### Role Description

Ministers are seeking to recruit 3 Non-Executive Directors to the board of Health Research Authority (HRA).

The Health Research Authority's (HRA's) Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) play a key role in the effective governance and leadership of the organisation. They contribute to the work of the board, both by actively participating in board discussions and more widely, contributing to the board's governance, performance management and development of strategy for the HRA.

NEDs contribute to representing the HRA externally, maintaining (or developing where necessary) excellent relationships with a range of key partners and stakeholders such as the NHS, the public, industry, research funders and researchers, research ethics committees, other arms-length bodies, and regulators.

They are also expected to contribute across a range of specific areas, including:

- ensuring the board listens to the public and patient voice.
- ensuring appropriate financial controls are in place and risks managed accordingly.
- contributing to the development of strategy.

- ensuring that best practice is followed in leadership and people policies and behaviour.

## Qualities required for the role of a NED

We particularly welcome applicants from an ethnic minority background to bring their experience and insights to the HRA.

## Person specification

The Department of Health and Social Care values and promotes diversity and encourages applications from all sections of the community. The boards of public bodies should reflect the population they are there to serve. Boards also benefit from fresh perspectives, and we are always keen to encourage candidates new to public appointments to consider applying for our roles.

To be considered, you must be able to demonstrate that you have the qualities, skills, and experience to meet all the essential criteria for appointment.

## Essential Criteria

We are looking for candidates who can demonstrate the following:

- a career record of achievements of scale and relevance, with an ability to operate effectively on the board of a high-profile national organisation.
- an ability to provide effective scrutiny and challenge to the Executive and to hold them to account for the delivery of performance and strategy and delivery of digital transformation.
- excellent communication skills, sound judgement and the highest standards of personal propriety in relation to governance, accountability, risk, and financial management.
- demonstrable interest in the work of the HRA and the challenges it faces.

Candidates must also be able to demonstrate skills and experience in at least one of the following areas:

- the Research Ethics service or the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG). This could include experience of sitting as a member on a Research Ethics Committee or CAG.
- an ability to provide the perspective of the user, such as someone undertaking research and submitting research applications to the HRA.
- significant expertise in major digital programmes.
- experience of the pharmaceutical industry from the private sector.

- an ability to evidence a commitment to driving continuous improvement and value for money for the public purse
- experience of working in another Government department such as the Office for Life Sciences or the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology.

### **Desirable Criteria**

For at least one of the NED positions, it would be desirable to have:

- a practising clinician who understands how the NHS operates.

## **Remuneration and status of appointment**

- Health Research Authority Non-Executive Directors are remunerated at the standard rate of £7,883 per annum.
- Remuneration for this role is treated as employment income and will be subject to tax and National Insurance contributions, both of which will be deducted at source under PAYE before you are paid.
- You can claim reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence costs which are properly and necessarily incurred on official business, in line with the travel and subsistence policy and rates of the HRA. However, these payments are taxable as earnings and will be subject to tax and national insurance, both of which will be deducted at source under PAYE before you are paid. A copy of the policy and rates can be obtained from the HRA.
- This is an office holder appointment and does not attract any benefits under any Civil Service Pension Scheme. You will not be eligible for redundancy pay as you are not an employee. No other arrangements have been made for compensation upon the end of your term of appointment because an office holder who is appointed for a limited duration would have no expectation of serving beyond that period.
- As this is an office holder appointment, you will not become a member of the Civil Service. You will not be subject to the provisions of employment law.

## **Time commitment**

2 to 3 days per month

## **Location**

Board meetings are normally held at the main office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every other month at:

No2 Redman Place

Stratford  
London  
E20 1JQ

specific dates are as follows:

20 November 2024 (Public session)  
22 January 2025 (Private session)  
19 March 2025 (Public session)  
21 May 2025 (Public session)  
9 July 2025 (Private session)  
17 September 2025 (Public session)  
19 November 2025 (Public session)

Please note – 1 meeting a year is held at one of the HRA's other offices, Manchester, Nottingham, Bristol, Newcastle, and meetings also take place virtually.

## **Tenure of office**

The proposed length of term for the new appointments is 3 or 4 years.

The possibility of re-appointment for a further term is at the discretion of Ministers. Any re-appointment is subject to satisfactory annual appraisals of performance during the first term in the post. There is no automatic presumption of re-appointment; each case should be considered on its own merits, taking into account a number of factors including, but not restricted to, the diversity of the current board and its balance of skills and experience. In most cases, the total time served in post will not exceed more than two terms or serve in any one post for more than ten years.

## **Accountability**

Non-Executive Directors are appointed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and are accountable to the Secretary of State via the Chair for carrying out their duties and for their performance.

## **For a discussion about the role**

For further information regarding the role of HRA and the role of a NED please contact:

Name: Mark Toal

Tel: 0207 2102749

Email: [mark.toal@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:mark.toal@dhsc.gov.uk)

## 1.2 Health Research Authority role and responsibilities

The Health Research Authority is a non-departmental public body, set up in 2011 and established under The Care Act 2014 with a mission to protect NHS patients, their tissue, and their data when they are involved in research. We have transformed UK research regulation and governance by simplifying processes, removing duplication, and reducing timelines.

We have better supported the research community by putting people first. To make it easy to do research that people can trust, we:

- work with people to understand what they want research to look like and act on this so that they can trust research.
- make sure that people taking part in research are treated ethically and fairly by reviewing and approving health and social care research studies that involve people, their tissue or their data.
- work with other organisations across the UK to make sure that, wherever you are, research studies can be set up smoothly and are always subject to the same scrutiny before they start.
- work with others to coordinate and standardise the way research is set up and managed.
- encourage and support transparency about research so that everyone can find out what research is taking place, and what it found.
- are one of the gatekeepers of patient data making sure that information is protected if it's used for research.
- put in place and support the digital platforms to help research get set-up and managed in the UK.

### How we work

Our 260 staff, who work at home and in our offices in Bristol, London, Manchester, Newcastle, and Nottingham, provide specialist advice and learning to researchers about research ethics and governance. They also develop policies concerning research ethics and governance and support our committees and advisory groups to deliver our services. Our staff work with users of our services to design and put in place the digital systems used by the sector to set up studies. and effectively administer the organisation.

We could not operate without our HRA Community. The Community is made up of our Research Ethics Committees (REC) members, Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG) members, and our Public Involvement Network (PIN) - which includes members of the public who have experience of, or have been impacted by, research.

They all make an invaluable contribution to our work and the experience of people taking part in research. They help us make sure that people can trust the research that we approve, so the research findings can improve care. They give their time generously, enabling the HRA to operate efficiently and respond rapidly when needed.

To deliver our ambition to make it easier to do research that people can trust and ensure that health and social care research is conducted with and for everyone, it is important that we are informed by a range of insights and experiences that reflect the population we serve.

We can make better decisions by working with a diverse group of people and we work with our HRA Community to ensure working with us is a positive experience, open to everyone.

## **Role and Responsibilities of the NEDs**

HRA's NEDs play a key role in the effective governance and leadership of the organisation. They contribute to the work of the board, both by actively participating in board discussions and more widely, contributing to the board's governance, performance management and development of strategy for the HRA.

NEDs contribute to representing the HRA externally, maintaining (or developing where necessary) excellent relationships with a range of key partners and stakeholders such as the NHS, the public, industry, research funders and researchers, research ethics committees, other arms-length bodies and regulators.

NEDs are also expected to contribute across a range of specific areas, including ensuring the board listens to the public and patient voice; ensuring appropriate financial controls are in place and risks managed; accordingly, contributing to the development of strategy; ensuring that best practice is followed in leadership and people policies and behaviour

## **Further information**

The [HRA's strategy](#), alongside the HRA's most recent [business plan](#) and [annual report](#), provide further information regarding the HRA and the important work it delivers.

The HRA has a robust governance framework in place with the Board's terms of reference set out in the [HRA's standing orders and standing financial instructions](#).

## Section 2: The recruitment

### 2.1 Making an application

Thank you for your interest in the appointment of a NED for the HRA.

The Department of Health and Social Care's Honours and ALB Public Appointments Unit is managing this recruitment campaign.

In order to apply, you will need to [create an account](#) or [sign in](#) on the "Apply for a public appointment" website.

Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions. To apply, all candidates are required to provide:

- a Curriculum Vitae (CV), we recommend you limit your CV to around 2 pages
- a supporting statement (2-page limit) setting out how you meet the criteria for appointment as set out in the person specification for the role
- equality information
- information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues

Guidance on what to include in your CV/Supporting Statement and tips for applying can be found in the corresponding sections below and on the public appointment website: [Public appointments - GOV.UK](#).

We will ask you to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate.

You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the disability confident scheme before you submit your application.

You will also be required to make any declarations related to standards in public life and ensuring public confidence in your Supporting Statement. Further information on this can be found in the relevant section below.

If you are unable to create an account and apply online, or if you have any problems submitting your application online, please contact Karen Dinsdale on 0113 2545414 or Ben Jones on 0113 2546557.

Applications must be received by **midday on Tuesday, 17 September 2024**.

The Advisory Assessment Panel reserves the right to only consider applications that contain all of the elements listed above, and that arrive before the published deadline for applications.

In completing an application, please firstly note the following in relation to:

- Disqualification from appointment
- Outside interests and reputational issues: Conflicts of interest

- Outside interests and reputational issues: Political Activity and social media
- Standards in public life and ensuring public confidence.

## Disqualification from appointment

The Cabinet Office sets out the following regarding all public appointments:

In general, you should have the right to work in the UK to be eligible to apply for a public appointment. There are a small number of specialist roles that are not open to non-British citizens. Any nationality requirements will be specified in the vacancy details.

The Government expects all holders of public office to work to the highest personal and professional standards. You cannot be considered for a public appointment if:

- you are disqualified from acting as a company director (under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986)
- have an unspent conviction on your criminal record
- your estate has been sequestrated in Scotland or you enter into a debt arrangement programme under Part 1 of the Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 17) as the debtor or have, under Scots law, granted a trust deed for creditors.

In addition, legislation related to HRA sets out how individuals are disqualified from appointment as a HRA NED, if they are:

The below is only intended to act as a summary and you should consider the full legislation. You are or may be disqualified, subject to the exact provisions set out in legislation, from being a Chair or Non-Executive Member of the Health Research Authority if:

- You are the chair or non-officer member of NHS Resolution
- You are the chair or non-officer member of NHS Business Services Authority
- You are the Chair or non-officer member of NHS Counter Fraud Authority
- You are the chairman or non-executive director of an NHS trust in England, or you are the chairman, vice-chair, or non-executive director of an NHS trust in Wales.
- You are a member of the House of Commons

The above is only intended to act as a summary and you should consider the full legislation, which is attached for your ease at **Annex A** to this document.

When sending your application online, you will be asked to confirm that the information you have provided is true and correct and that you are eligible to apply for a public appointment. As part of this, you will also confirm that you have read any disqualification criteria for the role, and that you are willing to stand down from any other role/s in order to take up appointment. If you are currently disqualified from appointment, please provide further details in your supporting letter.

For further advice please contact Karen Dinsdale on 0113 2545414

## Outside interests and reputational interests: Conflicts of interest

Before you apply you should carefully consider if you or a party related to you have any interests which could lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest if you were to be appointed.

When you apply you will be asked to complete four sections on the following:

- Financial interests
- Employment, appointments, and other outside roles
- Personal interests
- Any other relevant interests or activity.

You should declare anything relevant that you think may call into question your ability to properly discharge the responsibilities of the role you are applying for or may be perceived as having scope to do so by a reasonable member of the public.

Interests may include, (without limitation), any outside personal or business interests, any direct and indirect financial interests (such as shareholdings or share options in individual companies), or any positions of employment, other appointments or other positions of authority, that you or any party related to you have and which may influence your judgement in performing your public appointment or may be perceived by a reasonable member of the public as having scope to do so. A 'party related to you' could include for example (but without limitation) a spouse/partner, a business partner, a close family member or a person living in the same household as you, or a close family member.

Further help and examples of the types of things which you may need to disclose will be given to you on the relevant pages when you create your account and application on the public appointments application system (gov.uk website).

Many conflicts of interest can be satisfactorily resolved and declaring a potential conflict does not prevent you from being interviewed.

If you are shortlisted, the panel will discuss any potential conflicts with you during your interview, including any proposals you may have to mitigate them, and can record that in their advice to Ministers. If Ministers wish to appoint you, an offer of appointment may be subject to you giving up any unmanageable conflicts of interest. Any interests that are deemed manageable will need to be formally declared and may be published in line with HRA organisational policy regarding Declarations of Interest.

Failure to declare a potential conflict of interest may become grounds for withdrawing an offer of appointment. If offered the role, you will also be required to make a Declaration of Interests and to keep the Declaration up to date throughout the tenure of your appointment. The requirement to declare interests will also be included in your Terms and Conditions of appointment. Failure to disclose an interest, subject to the interest and the circumstances, may become grounds during the tenure of your appointment, for suspension or termination of your appointment.

## Outside interests and reputational issues: Political Activity and social media

In the same section of your online application, you will also be asked to declare if you have undertaken any political activity for a political party within the last five years and for details of any social media accounts that can be viewed by the public.

### Political Activity

Political activity information is primarily for monitoring purposes only, however if you are shortlisted for interview, this information will be shared with the Advisory Assessment Panel. The reason for this, is that it is appreciated that such activities may have given you relevant skills, including experience gained from committee work, collective decision-making, resolving conflict and public speaking. If you have had such experience and you consider it relevant to your application for this post, you should also take the opportunity to include it separately in your Supporting Statement. If possible, you should not, however, identify the relevant political party in your statement.

If you are appointed to this role, please note that any political activity you declare will be published in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments. Political activity is not a bar to appointment, but it must be declared.

### Social Media

You can provide up to five public social media accounts and will be asked for the full URL of each. If you apply for a public appointment and are shortlisted for interview, DHSC will conduct appropriate checks, as part of which we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This may include searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs, or any other publicly available information. We ask for information about your social media accounts to make sure these checks are carried out accurately.

## Standards in public life and ensuring public confidence

If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment to Ministers or the ALB or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, **it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Advisory Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue/s in your Supporting statement.**

This should include declaring in your Supporting Statement if:

- you are, or have been, bankrupt or you have made an arrangement with a creditor at any point, including the dates of this
- you are subject to a current police investigation
- there are any previous or pending personal conduct issues where:

- i) a complaint/ personal conduct issue has either been upheld or partly upheld
  - ii) an investigation that relates at least in part to your personal conduct, is to take place but it is yet to start, or a similar such investigation is underway, but it is yet to conclude
  - iii) a complaint/personal conduct issue is current, but at the time of your application it is yet to be confirmed whether or how it will be investigated further.
- there are any possible reputational issues arising from your past actions or public statements that you have made (including through social media and blogs)
  - there are any other matters which may mean you may not be able to meet the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies. You can access this document at: [Code of conduct for board members of public bodies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342222/code_of_conduct_for_board_members_of_public_bodies.pdf)

Alongside your own declaration, we will conduct appropriate checks, as part of which we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This may include searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This will be shared with the Panel.

The Panel may explore any issues you have raised or have been identified in Due Diligence checks with you as part of assessing your application.

Failure to disclose relevant information requested could result in an appointment offer being withdrawn or the appointment being terminated, as the person appointed to this role will be expected to demonstrate the highest standards of corporate and personal conduct and in line with standards set out in the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies, which includes the Seven Principles of Public Life. As part of agreeing to the terms and conditions of appointment you will be expected to agree to meeting the standards set out in this Code.

## CV

We recommend you limit your CV to around 2 pages. Please ensure your CV includes:

- Your full name, title, home address, personal contact telephone numbers (land line and mobile) and personal email address.
- Details of your education and qualifications, employment history, directorships, membership of professional bodies and any relevant publications or awards.
- Contact details for at least two referees. One referee should be the person to whom you are/were accountable in your current/most recent appointment or position of employment. Please indicate the relationship of each referee to you. References will be requested for short-listed candidates prior to interview

- Brief details of your current or most recent post and the dates you occupied this role, and any past or present Ministerial appointments.

## Supporting Statement

The Supporting Statement is your opportunity to demonstrate how you meet each of the criteria set out in the person specification. You may want to add the essential and/or desirable criteria set out in the role description as subheadings and in your statement and provide evidence underneath these. This will help the Advisory Assessment Panel to see how your skills and expertise relate to the role.

Please also set out details regarding any reputational issues (see above guidance on Standards in Public life).

Please ensure your full name, the role to which you are applying and the corresponding reference number for the post are clearly noted at the top of your Statement.

Please write all acronyms in full first, **limit your statement to two pages** and type or write clearly in black ink.

We will commission a pre-assessment of candidate applications which will then be provided to the Panel for consideration and to inform the shortlisting process. By applying, you are agreeing to your application being shared with another party for pre-assessment. It is the responsibility of the panel to determine who it believes best meet the criteria for the role, and who should be invited to interview.

**You must inform the Department if, *during the application and assessment process*, your circumstances change in respect to any information that has been or should have been provided by you in your application.**

## Equality Information

You will be asked to complete questions on equality information when completing your application online. If you have previously created an account, the responses from that previous application will be saved. You will have the opportunity to review and edit your responses before you submit an application.

We encourage applications from talented individuals from all backgrounds and across the whole of the United Kingdom. Boards of public bodies are most effective when they reflect the diversity of views of the public they serve and this is an important part of the Government's levelling up agenda.

We collect equality information, including information about applicants' characteristics and educational and professional backgrounds so that we can make sure we are attracting a broad range of people to these roles and that our recruitment processes are fair for everyone. Without this information, it makes it difficult to see if our outreach is working, if the application process is having an unfair impact on certain groups and whether changes are making a positive difference.

The data you provide is used to produce anonymised management information about the diversity of applicants. You can select “prefer not to say” to any question you do not wish to answer. **The information you provide will not be seen by the Advisory Assessment Panel.**

## Reasonable Adjustments

We are committed to making reasonable adjustments to make sure applicants with disabilities, physical or mental health conditions, or other needs are not substantially disadvantaged when applying for public appointments. This can include changing the recruitment process to enable people who wish to apply to do so.

Some examples of adjustments are:

- ensuring that application forms are available in different or accessible formats
- making adaptations to interview locations
- allowing candidates to present their skills and experience in a different way
- giving additional detailed information on the assessment process to allow candidates time to prepare themselves
- allowing support workers, for example sign language interpreters
- making provision for support animals to attend.

When you complete your application online, you will be given the opportunity to tick a box to request reasonable adjustment(s) to the application process at the “check your answers before sending your application” stage.

## Disability Confident Scheme

The Department of Health and Social Care values and promotes diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity for all and to the appointment of disabled people. We are a member of the Disability Confident Scheme, which helps recruit and retain disabled people. All candidates who apply under the Scheme for one of our public appointments and who meet all the essential criteria, will be offered an interview.

As part of implementing the Scheme, we guarantee an interview to anyone with a disability whose application meets all the essential criteria in the person specification for the role and who has asked that their application is considered under the Scheme. Indicating that you wish your application to be considered under the Scheme will in no way prejudice your application.

### What do we mean by a disability?

To be eligible for the Disability Confident Scheme you must have a disability or long-term health condition, which could be physical, sensory, or mental and must be expected to last for at least 12 months. You do not have to be registered as a disabled person to apply under this Scheme.

If you wish to apply under the Scheme, please tick the relevant box at the “check your answers before sending your application” stage of your online application.

## 2.2 The Assessment Process

We will deal with your application as quickly as possible and will advise you of the likely timetable at each stage.

### Planned timetable

- Closing date: Midday on 17 September 2024
- Shortlisting: Friday 18 October 2024
- Interviews: Monday 2 December & Friday 6 December

### Advisory Assessment Panel

Advisory Assessment Panels (AAP) are chosen by Ministers to assist them in their decision-making. These include a departmental official and an independent member. For competitions recruiting non-executive members of a board (apart from the Chair), the panel will usually include a representative from the public body concerned.

AAPs perform a number of functions, including agreeing an assessment strategy with ministers, undertaking sifting, carrying out interviews in line with the advertised criteria and deciding objectively who meets the published selection criteria for the role before recommending to ministers which candidates they find appointable. It is then for the minister to decide who to appoint to the role.

The panel will include:

- Gail Marzetti, Deputy Director Research and Systems, DHSC Senior Sponsor for HRA, as Panel Chair
- Professor Terence Stephenson, Chair of HRA, as Panel Member
- Naleem Patel, Current HRA Non-Executive Director, as Panel Member
- Alan Boyd, Former President of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine as the Independent Panel Member

### Assessment

- Ministers are responsible and accountable to Parliament for the public appointments made within their department. As a result, they must be consulted at every stage of the appointments process.
- An Advisory Assessment Panel (AAP) is appointed by Ministers to assist them in their decision making. The role of the Panel is to assess objectively, which candidates meet the eligibility criteria for the role.

- At the shortlisting meeting the AAP will assess applications against the essential criteria and decide which candidates have best met the criteria and should be invited to interview. Ministers will then be consulted on the AAP's shortlist. If you have applied under the Disability Confident Scheme and you meet all the essential criteria, then you will be invited for an interview.
- If you apply under the Disability Confident Scheme and you are not shortlisted for interview, we can provide a summary of the assessment of your written application if you choose to request feedback. However, we regret that due to the volume of applications received, we are only able to offer feedback to other candidates who have been unsuccessful at the interview stage.
- You will be advised (by e-mail) whether you have been shortlisted. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview. Interviews will be conducted either face-to-face, in central London or by video/ teleconference. We will confirm arrangements to shortlisted candidates in due course.
- If you are invited to interview and are unable to attend on the set date, then an alternative date can only be offered at the discretion of the AAP.
- The AAP will meet again to interview candidates and determine who meets the essential criteria and is therefore appointable to the role. The AAP may invite you to make a brief presentation at the start of the interview and will go on to question you about your skills and experience, including asking specific questions to assess whether you meet the criteria set out for the post. The AAP will also explore with you any potential conflicts of interest or any other issues arising from your personal and professional history which may impact on an appointment decision (see section 2.1 for further details).
- Details of the panel's assessment of interviewed candidates are provided to Ministers, including whether they have judged a candidate to be appointable to the role. It is then for Ministers to decide who should be appointed.
- Ministers may choose to meet with candidates before making a decision. Candidates should therefore be prepared for a short time gap between interview and a final appointment decision being made. Candidates who have been interviewed will be kept informed of progress.
- Once the decision on the appointment has been made, interviewed candidates will be advised of the outcome of their application, including whom they may approach for feedback, if they wish. We appreciate it takes a lot of time and effort to apply for roles, and prepare for and attend an interview, and that feedback is a valuable part of the process.
- In some circumstances, Ministers may choose not to appoint any candidate/s and re-run the competition.

## **Offer of appointment**

If you are successful, you will be contacted by Officials to inform you of the offer and to confirm if you would be willing to accept. If you would, then the next steps will be to ask you

to complete a Declaration of Interests form, which will be required to be signed-off by you and a senior official and for DHSC to conduct baseline security checks.

Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) checks are conducted on candidates prior to appointment and your role will be offered subject to these checks being completed. The BPSS is a recognised standard within government for the screening of individuals. The checks will require you to initially provide three forms of documentation to the Honours and ALB Public Appointments Unit to verify your identity, and then provide further personal data, by completing an online form. The link to complete this form will be sent separately to you.

## Appointment

On completion of your Declaration of Interests and baseline security checks, you will receive a letter from Ministers appointing you as a NED of HRA, which will confirm the terms and conditions on which the appointment is offered.

## Announcement

All public appointments are announced on GOV.UK. The announcement is required to include the length of your appointment, the remuneration for the role and whether you have declared any political activity. We will share the draft announcement with you before it is made.

## Queries

For any queries about your application status or the selection process, please contact Karen Dinsdale in DHSC's Honours and ALB Public Appointments Unit:

Email: [Karen.Dinsdale@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Dinsdale@dhsc.gov.uk)

If you choose to apply, we would like to thank you in advance for your time and effort in making an application.

**You will receive an automated email to confirm your application has been submitted successfully. Following the closing date, you will receive a further email from DHSC's Honours and ALB Public Appointments Unit which will confirm next steps in the selection process. If you have not received your application ID reference number within 3 working days of the advertised closing date, please contact us quoting reference VAC-7936.**

## Governance Code on Public Appointments and the Commissioner for Public Appointments

The Governance Code on Public Appointments, published by the Cabinet Office, sets out the principles that should underpin all public appointments. The Governance Code can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-code-for-public-appointments>

The regulation of public appointments against the requirements of the Governance Code is carried out by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The Commissioner provides independent assurance that public appointments are made in accordance with the principles set out in the Code. The Commissioner is appointed by the Queen and is independent of the Government and the Civil Service. Further information about the role of the Commissioner is available from:

<http://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk>

## If you are not completely satisfied

The Department of Health and Social Care will aim to process all applications as quickly as possible and to treat all applicants with courtesy. If you have any complaints about the way your application has been handled, please contact Ben Jones by emailing [Ben.Jones1@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Ben.Jones1@dhsc.gov.uk)

If after receiving a comprehensive response from the Department you are still concerned, you can write to the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Please contact:

The Commissioner for Public Appointments  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ  
Tel: 0207 271 8938  
Email: [publicappointments@csc.gov.uk](mailto:publicappointments@csc.gov.uk)

## 2.3 How we will manage your personal information

Your personal information will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. You will not receive unsolicited paper or electronic mail because of sending the Department of Health and Social Care any personal information. No personal information will be passed on to third parties for commercial purposes.

When we ask you for personal information, we promise we will:

- Only ask for what we need, and not collect too much or irrelevant information
- Ensure you know why we need it
- Protect it and insofar as is possible, make sure nobody has access to it who shouldn't
- Ensure you know what choice you have about giving us information
- Make sure we don't keep it longer than necessary
- Only use your information for the purposes you have authorised

We ask that you:

- Provide us with accurate information

## Non-Executive Director of the Health Research Authority information pack for applicants

- Inform us as soon as possible of any changes or if you notice mistakes in the information, we hold about you

The Department of Health and Social Care will process personal data relating to you in accordance with: the Department of Health and Social Care data protection policy at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dhsc-privacy-notice> and the Cabinet Office's data protection policy for public appointments at <https://apply-for-public-appointment.service.gov.uk/privacy>.

If you apply for a post, we will share some of the information you provide with the members of the selection panel for the post to which you are applying, so that your CV and supporting letter can be assessed.

The diversity information you provide will not be used in the selection process and will therefore not be shared with the Advisory Assessment Panel assessing your application at any stage. However, panels may review the political activity response at the interview stage. This in no way acts as a bar to appointment.

The Commissioner for Public Appointments regulates and monitors appointments to public bodies to ensure procedures are fair. The Department of Health and Social Care is required by the Commissioner for Public Appointments to retain information about the people who apply for public appointments within his remit and make this information available to him for audit purposes, if requested to do so. Information you provide in your application may therefore be made available to the Commissioner for Public Appointments and the Commissioner's auditors on a confidential basis to help fulfil either the Commissioner's formal complaints investigation role or for audit purposes.

# Annex A – Health Research Authority Legislation Further Information

## Disqualification

1. You are or may be disqualified, subject to the exact provisions set out in legislation, from being a Chair or Non-Executive Member of the Health Research Authority if:
  - a) You are the chair or non-officer member of NHS Resolution
  - b) You are the chair or non-officer member of NHS Business Services Authority
  - c) You are the Chair or non-officer member of NHS Counter Fraud Authority
  - d) You are the chairman or non-executive director of an NHS trust in England, or you are the chairman, vice-chair, or non-executive director of an NHS trust in Wales
  - e) You are a member of the House of Commons

## Notice and Termination

- 2) A person may resign from office as a non-executive member by giving notice to the Secretary of State.
- 3) The Secretary of State may remove a non-executive member on any of the following grounds:
  - a) incapacity
  - b) misbehaviour
  - c) failure to carry out duties as a non-executive member.

## Suspension

4. The Secretary of State may suspend a person from office as a non-executive member if it appears that there are or there may be grounds to remove that person from office under 3 (a) (b) or (c) immediately above.
5. Having decided to suspend a person on the grounds stipulated at paragraph 3 the Secretary of State must give notice of the decision to the person; and the suspension takes effect when the person receives the notice.
6. The notice may be delivered in person (in which case the person is taken to receive it when it is delivered) or sent by first class post to the person's last known address (in which case, the person is taken to receive it on the third day after the day on which it is posted).
7. The initial period of suspension must not exceed six months.
8. The Secretary of State may review the suspension.
9. The Secretary of State must review the suspension, if requested in writing by the person to do so but need not review the suspension less than three months after the beginning of the initial period of suspension.

10. Following a review during a period of suspension, the Secretary of State may revoke the suspension, or suspend the person for a period of no more than six months from the expiry of the current period.

11. The Secretary of State must revoke the suspension if the Secretary of State decides that there are no grounds to remove the person from office as stipulated at paragraph 3 above or decides that there are grounds to do so but nonetheless decides not to do so.

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