



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Member of the Food Standards Agency

Information pack for applicants

Closing date: Midday on Thursday, 20 February 2025
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Section 1 – The Role

1.1 Introduction from Prof Susan Jebb, Chair of the Food Standards Agency

Dear Candidate,

I am delighted that you are considering applying for a non-executive role as a Member of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board.

The FSA is a regulatory department, charged by law with protecting public health, and the wider interests of consumers, in relation to food. Our overarching aim is to ensure that the public can trust that their food is safe and authentic. We act on the basis of science and evidence, and we put public health and the consumer interest first in our decision making. We operate with high levels of transparency, including holding our Board meetings in public and inviting questions from the public on our work, to sustain trust and confidence in food standards.

Our status as a non-Ministerial Government Department, serving England, Wales and Northern Ireland gives us a high degree of independence. The FSA works closely with our sister department in Scotland, Food Standards Scotland.

The Board sets the strategic priorities to fulfil the FSA's statutory purposes, and reviews progress against agreed outcomes. The Board takes major decisions on public health and regulatory matters and assures the delivery of our programmes and plans.

In 2022 the FSA [published its strategy](#) for improving food over the next five years and recommitted to its mission of food you can trust. The five-year strategy reflects the FSA's greater responsibilities now that the UK is outside of the EU and also commits the FSA to working alongside other government departments towards healthier and more sustainable food.

You can find out more about our Board and see the Board in action by watching a video of a previous Board meeting via our website: [FSA Board Meetings | Food Standards Agency](#).

The Board's ambition is for the FSA to be regarded as an excellent, accountable, modern regulator. We have a very committed and cohesive Board with Members from a range of backgrounds who share their knowledge and expertise in support of this goal. We hold Board meetings in public on four occasions each year, with two private Board retreats and regular briefings and stakeholder visits. We are united by a common purpose to uphold and enhance food standards. People across the UK, and in those countries we export to, care about food and if you join us, your contribution will help uphold and enhance the food standards we are proud of in the UK.

In this pack you will find additional information about the FSA and its work, details of the Board roles we wish to fill, and how to apply. I look forward to receiving your application.

Professor Susan Jebb, Chair of the Food Standards Agency

1.2 Role description and person specification

Ministers are seeking to make up to 6 appointments to the board of the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

Role description

- To ensure the FSA discharges its statutory duties in line with the requirement to protect public health and consumer interests in relation to food.
- To set and to reinforce the FSA's core values through the development and monitoring of strategic objectives, plans, and policies.
- To represent the FSA and its values in communications with key stakeholders.
- To monitor the performance of the Executive in meeting agreed objectives and targets, including: the delivery of services; continuous improvement; financial performance, and risk management.
- To assist with the appointment of the Chief Executive.
- To play an effective part in Board meetings, discussions and decisions, and work towards shared success.
- To participate as a member or Chair of one or more of the Board Committees: Business, and Audit and Risk Assurance.
- To act in the public interest at all times, not as a representative of the interests of any particular sector, and without regard to any personal interests.
- To give approximately 20 days per annum to the FSA and to travel to meetings across the country, for which expenses are payable. In addition, Board members are expected to read widely to develop personal skill and ensure effectiveness in the role.

Board members receive advice and support from the Executive in respect of their duties and are provided with background information in order to carry out their responsibilities. There is a dedicated secretariat to support the Board.

Person specification

The Department of Health and Social Care and the FSA value and promote 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.

Board members do not represent a particular industry or sector and it is not essential for Board members to have specialist or scientific knowledge of any part of the food chain.

Essential Criteria

- Strong decision-making skills, able to assess complex evidence and explain the basis for a decision.
- Experience of working with, or on behalf of the public and an ability to represent consumer interests.
- Strong strategic thinking and experience, able to help shape the FSA's strategic direction.
- Ability to achieve significant change and to operate across complex networks.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills, including championing diversity and able to confidently deal with difficult situations sensitively.

Desirable Criteria

In order to achieve a balanced Board, new members will ideally be able to bring skills and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Experience in public (or environmental) health in relation to food
- Operational experience of Local Government
- Experience in the food sector (primary production, manufacture, supply chain, retail - including small and medium-sized enterprises)
- Expertise in safety and standards in the food industry
- Veterinary experience
- Experience in corporate or commercial financial strategy
- Experience in regulatory compliance, audit and assurance
- Criminal investigative skills
- Experience in (or understanding of) how a national regulator works

Remuneration and status of appointment

Members of the FSA are remunerated at a rate of £8,000 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 FSA. 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 FSA.

This is an office holder appointment and as such it is not subject to the provisions of employment law. 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. You will not become a member of the Civil Service and will therefore not attract any benefits under any Civil Service Pension Scheme.

Time commitment

20 days per annum.

Location

Three Board meetings and 2 retreats are held at various locations around England. One Board meeting per year is held in either Northern Ireland or Wales. Board meeting will be held on the following days:

27 & 28 January 2025

25 & 26 March 2025

17 & 18 June 2025

16 & 17 September 2025

13 & 14 October 2025

09 & 10 December 2025

Tenure of office

Ministers will determine the length of the appointment, which will be up to 3 or 4 years. The start date for one of the member roles will be deferred until November 2025, this is to align with end date for one of the existing members.

The possibility of re-appointment for a further term is at the discretion of Ministers. There is no automatic presumption of re-appointment; each case is considered on its own merits, taking into account a number of factors including, but not restricted to, the diversity of the current board, the balance of skills and experience it needs in the future, and the performance of an office holder during their first term. Office holders would only serve more than two terms or a total of ten years in post, by exception.

Accountability

FSA members 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 FSA and the role of Members please contact Joanna Abishegam-David, FSA Head of Private Office,

Tel: 07356 138202

Email: Joanna.Abishegam@food.gov.uk

1.3 FSA role and responsibilities

Food Standards Agency role and responsibilities

The FSA was established by the Food Standards Act 1999, in the wake of the BSE crisis, as a non-Ministerial Government Department and a regulator; created to be at arm's length from Government and independent of sectoral interests. Our primary duty, set out in statute, is to protect public health and otherwise protect the interests of consumers in relation to food and feed.

Our statutory functions include developing, or assisting in the development of, policies connected to these areas, carrying out and commissioning research, setting the standards for and monitoring performance of enforcement authorities, and providing advice to the public. So, as well as being a regulator, we act as a policymaker, generate evidence and watchdog for the food system. [Our five-year strategy](#) sets out our mission is food you can trust, by which we mean food that is safe, food that is what it says it is and food that is healthier and more sustainable.

We are concerned with the safety of food right along the food supply chain, from when it is produced, to when it is served on the plate. As the national authority responsible for food safety, we set the regulations that food businesses are obliged to follow, and work with delivery partners across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to make sure those regulations are enforced.

We want the public to have trust in the food they eat, and that is why we work in an open and transparent way, making sure that consumer health and interests are at the heart of everything we do. Our Chief Scientific Adviser is critical in this, ensuring that we are making evidence-based decisions driven by sound, unbiased and relevant science.

Food and feed policy is a devolved matter. The FSA is accountable to Ministers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and we work closely with Food Standards Scotland (FSS). We are governed by an independent Board appointed by Ministers in the countries we serve. We work to provide a robust and coherent regulatory regime, to make sure that consumers across the UK can have confidence that the highest level of food standards are being set and maintained. We have a budget from the HM Treasury and Devolved Administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland of around £140 million. To help achieve this aim, the department has offices in London, Cardiff, Belfast, and York and employs almost 1,400 staff.

We not only work with a range of other government partners, which includes providing advice to Ministers across three governments, but also actively engage internationally. We make sure that we play an important role in supranational standard setting and sharing best practice with other national competent authorities.

There are nearly 600,000 food businesses in the UK. They have statutory duties to make sure the food they sell is safe and is what it says it is. The FSA, along with FSS in Scotland, and local authorities are the primary regulators who make sure that businesses are

complying with these rules, and who deliver "official controls" set out in law, such as regular inspection.

The FSA directly inspects a minority of riskier food businesses (for example meat plants and abattoirs) but for most of the food industry it is local authorities who deliver these controls. Local authority environmental health and trading standards officers invest time and effort working with local businesses to make sure the food they sell is safe and authentic. For small businesses in particular, a food hygiene inspection can be a vital source of guidance and advice about how to improve food safety practices.

The FSA oversees this system of controls, monitors performance and acts to mitigate risk in the system, for example by working with local authorities to manage thousands of food incidents every year.

As the central authority for food and feed safety in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we face a large range of complex and time-dependent challenges. Food and Drink is the UK's biggest manufacturing sector and the Agri-food sector as a whole contributed [£146.7bn to national Gross Value Added in 2022](#).

A major challenge facing the Agri-food sector is an increased potential for illegal and illicit activity through food crime due to the rapidly changing regulatory landscape. The FSA is fully committed to ensuring the authenticity and provenance of food right along the supply chain, through the work of the National Food Crime Unit.

Furthermore, the national and global context in which the FSA operates is changing at great speed, and the FSA needs to continue to evolve to meet changing public demands. With dynamic global trade bringing greater choice to UK consumers than ever before, the advent of new purchasing practices and changing dietary preferences, and the need for holistic approaches to health, wellbeing, and the environment, the FSA must keep pace with societal expectations. In doing so, the FSA must take advantage of new technologies and data-driven processes to support a risk-based approach to both standard setting and enforcement of thousands of businesses.

Further information about the FSA's work can be found on our website at:

[Homepage | Food Standards Agency](#)

Useful links

[The FSA Brochure](#)

[FSA Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23](#)

[Our Food 2023](#)

[FSA Board Operating Framework](#)

[Performance Report Q2 2024-25](#)

Section 2: The recruitment

2.1 Making an application

Thank you for your interest in the appointment of the Member role at the FSA.

The Department of Health and Social Care's Public Appointments Team (PAT) 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. This is a central, online recruitment platform managed by the Cabinet Office, which candidates use to apply for public appointments with any government department or a body which they sponsor.

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 ask that 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](#).

You will be asked 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 Zubeda Seedat on 0207 210 5352.

Applications must be received by **midday on Thursday, 20 February 2025**.

The Advisory Assessment Panel reserves the right to only consider applications that contain all of the elements you have been asked to provide and which are listed above, and that the applications are received before the published deadline.

In completing an application, please firstly note the following information set out below, in relation to:

- Disqualification from appointment
- Conflicts of interest
- 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, which includes this role, 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.

The Department of Health and Social Care also requires all those appointed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to public appointments, to be a fit and proper person, comparable with the requirements placed on board members in the NHS. As a result, in addition to the above, you must:

- be of good character
- have the qualifications, competence, skills, and experience which are necessary for you to carry out your duties
- have not been erased, removed or struck-off any applicable register of professionals maintained by a regulator of healthcare or social work professionals. If you are required to hold a registration with a relevant professional body to carry out your role, you must hold such registration and must have the entitlement to use any professional titles associated with this registration. Where you no longer meet the requirement to hold the registration, and if you are a healthcare professional, social worker or other professional registered with a healthcare or social care regulator, you must inform the regulator in question
- be capable by reason of health of properly performing tasks which are intrinsic to your role, after reasonable adjustments are made
- not be prohibited from holding office (for example, as a result of a directors disqualification order)
- not be on any 'barred' list

- not have been responsible for, contributed to or facilitated any serious misconduct or mismanagement (whether unlawful or not) in the course of carrying on a regulated activity or providing a service elsewhere which, if provided in England, would be a regulated activity
- within the last five years:
 - not have been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment of three months or more
 - not have been un-discharged bankrupt nor have been subject to bankruptcy restrictions, or have made arrangement/compositions with creditors and has not discharged

In addition, legislation related to the FSA sets out how individuals are disqualified from appointment as a FSA Member if they are:

- A Member of the House of Commons and Northern Ireland Assembly

The above is only intended to act as a summary of the legislation and you should consider the relevant sections of the legislation in full, which are 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 the appointment. If you are currently disqualified from appointment, please provide further details in your supporting letter.

For further advice, please contact Karen Dinsdale on Karen.Dinsdale@dhsc.gov.uk.

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, as part of the 'Outside interests and reputational issues' section, information 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.

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.

If offered the role, you will be required to make a Declaration of Interests, which will need to include mitigations approved by the Department, for managing any potential conflicts of interest. Failure to declare a potential conflict of interest may become grounds for withdrawing an offer of appointment.

You will also be required 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.

Subject to the particular interest, you may also be required declare the interest to the FSA for inclusion in the FSA's published Register of Member Interests.

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 and which meets the criteria for being politically active, as set out in the guidance when applying online, 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 reserve the right to consider anything in the public domain which may relate to your need to meet the requirements of the role to which you have applied and to hold public office. 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 FSA 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:
 - a complaint/personal conduct issue has either been upheld or partly upheld
 - 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
 - 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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/board-members-of-public-bodies-code-of-conduct>

Alongside your own declaration, we will also conduct due diligence checks, as noted above, on information in the public domain. Your declarations and information from our checks will be shared with the Panel, who may explore any issues 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 ask that you aim to 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.
- 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 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 potential 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.

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 an 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.

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 to the application process

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 to attend interviews, for example sign language interpreters
- making provision for support animals to attend interviews.

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 diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity for all and the appointment of disabled people. We are a member of the Disability Confident Scheme, which helps recruit and retain disabled people.

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 20 February 2025
- Shortlisting: 12 March 2025
- Interviews: 22, 23 and 29 April 2025

Advisory Assessment Panel

Advisory Assessment Panels (AAPs) are chosen by Ministers to assist them in their decision-making. Panels 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, normally the Chair.

AAPs perform a number of functions, including undertaking sifting, carrying out interviews and assessing objectively who meets the published appointment criteria for the role. It is then for the Minister to decide who to appoint to the role.

The panel will include:

- Kevin Dodds, DHSC senior sponsor for the FSA, as panel chair
- Susan Jebb, Chair of the FSA, as panel member
- Michael Whitehouse, a Non-Executive Director on the Board of the Medicines, and Healthcare Regulatory products Agency, as the Independent Panel Member

Assessment

When the advert has closed, 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. If they wish to, Ministers can see the full list of candidates and provide their views to the panel ahead of shortlisting.

At the shortlisting meeting the Panel will assess applications against the essential criteria. 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. 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.

If they wish to, Ministers can see the short list of candidates and provide their views to the panel ahead of interviews.

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, normally 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 Panel.

The Panel will meet again to interview candidates and determine who meets the essential criteria and is therefore appointable to the role. The Panel may share the opening question with you in advance to allow you to prepare your answer. The Panel 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. They 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' 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 and to 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 ask you 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. DHSC will also conduct pre-appointment checks.

These checks are conducted on candidates to be appointed, prior to appointment. Your role is only initially offered subject to these checks being satisfactorily completed.

Some of the checks will be run by the Department's Public Appointments Team and some will be commissioned by them from the Government Recruitment Service (GRS). Taken as a whole, the checks will include covering the requirements of the fit and proper person test, referred to earlier, and security checks.

The pre-appointment checks cover:

- identity check
- employment history
- references for the last 6 years of your employment
- occupational health assessment (where necessary)
- qualifications
- record of any upheld, ongoing or discontinued disciplinary, complaint, grievance, adverse employee behaviour or whistle-blowing findings
- Disclosure and Barring Service check
- professional registration/revalidation status (where required)
- insolvency check
- declaration of any settlement agreements
- a search of the Companies House register to ensure you are not disqualified as a director
- a search of the Charity Commission's register of removed trustees
- a check with the regulatory body for the NHS and relevant professional bodies where necessary
- social media check
- employment tribunal judgement check
- county court judgement check

Identity checks

The identity checks noted above will require you to initially provide three forms of documentation 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.

References

We will request two types of references as part of our due diligence process:

- those focused on assessing your fit against the person specification and your ability to meet the requirements of the role. To support that, we require that you provide contact details for two referees: one from your current or most recent main employer, and one from another suitably qualified person who can make such an assessment. The contact details of both referees should be included in your CV.
- those related to the fit and proper person test. If you are shortlisted, we will ask at that point that you provide the contact details of HR Directors or equivalent for any organisations you have been employed by or have held a Chair or Non-executive Director position with, in the last 6 years. These references will be focused on conduct: we will ask those organisations to confirm if there were or are any misconduct or grievance processes that we should be made aware of. When we

request contact details from you, we will share with you the specific questions we will ask of your former employers, and we will seek your permission to approach them.

- Both sets of references described above will only be collected if you have been offered and are willing in principle to accept the role.

Occupational Health assessment

If you are offered an appointment, as part of standard pre-appointment checks, you will be asked a series of questions to ascertain whether you will need to undertake an Occupational Health assessment prior to being appointed. The Occupational Health assessment will determine whether you are fit to deliver the role and if you would need any reasonable adjustments to do so.

Appointment

On completion of your Declaration of Interests and the pre-appointment checks, you will receive a letter from Ministers appointing you as a Member of the FSA, 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. A press notice may also be issued.

Queries

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

Email: 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 Public Appointments Team confirming 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-8216.

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 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 Zubeda Seedat by emailing zubeda.seedat@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

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
- 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 [DHSC privacy notice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) 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 Advisory Assessment Panel for the post to which you are applying, so that your CV and supporting letter can be assessed.

The equality 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 – Food Standards Agency Legislation Further Information

Disqualification

1. Members of the House of Commons and Northern Ireland Assembly are disqualified for appointment.

Notice and Termination

2. The Chair/Deputy Chair may resign by giving notice to any of the appropriate authorities.
3. A member other than the Chair/Deputy Chair may resign by giving notice to the authority by which the member was appointed.
4. The Chair/Deputy Chair or other member may be removed only if:
 - (a) They have been made bankrupt (or subject to other specified financial controls) or
 - (b) They are failing to carry out the duties of office or is otherwise unable or unfit to carry out those duties.

Suspension

5. No provisions set out in legislation.

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