



# Horserace Betting Levy Board Chair

**Public Appointment Candidate Pack**

**Closing time and date: Monday 13 January 2025, 11:59pm**



Department  
for Culture,  
Media & Sport



# Introduction

The Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport wishes to appoint a new Chair to the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

DCMS is committed to eliminating discrimination and advancing equality of opportunity in its public appointments. We particularly encourage applicants from underrepresented groups, those based outside London and the South-East and applicants who have achieved success through non-traditional educational routes. This ensures that boards of public bodies benefit from a full range of diverse perspectives and are representative of the people they serve.



# About the Horserace Betting Levy Board

The Horserace Betting Levy Board is a statutory body established by the Betting Levy Act 1961 and is an arm's-length body of Government. The HBLB is required to assess and collect the Levy from GB and online betting operators who take bets on British horseracing; and distribute the Levy in line with the statutory purposes set out in the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963. The levy is currently charged at 10% of gross profits made by betting operators on British horseracing, above a de minimis amount of £500,000. Therefore the Levy yield fluctuates from year to year necessitating the Board's retention of appropriate levels of reserves.

The HBLB will apply the Levy for purposes conducive to any one or more of:

- The improvement of breeds of horses.
- The advancement or encouragement of veterinary science or veterinary education.
- The improvement of horseracing

The current, three-year business plan for HBLB has four goals which are supported by 13 Racing Outcomes (aspirations for the sport). The business plan can be found at

<https://hblb.org.uk/page/27>

Following a series of consultations on options for modernising the Levy, the Government implemented significant reforms to the Horserace Betting Levy in April 2017 by fixing the Levy rate at 10% and extending the scope of the Levy to include offshore online bookmakers for the first time. The reforms resulted in an extra £45m in statutory Levy income for 2017/18, totalling £95m in Levy in 2017/18. The government continues to consider evidence obtained during a review of the Levy undertaken in 2023/4.



# About the role

We are seeking to appoint a new Chair to the Horserace Betting Levy Board following the sad death of Paul Darling in August 2024. We are looking to appoint a candidate with strong leadership and relationship management qualities, excellent communication skills and experience in being responsible for the strategic distribution of funding and spending decisions.

This is an exciting opportunity to work with both the public and private sector in supporting one of Britain's greatest sports. The Chair will be responsible for providing leadership to the Board, working closely with Government and the racing and betting sectors to build and maintain good relationships. The Chair will oversee a rigorous Levy collection process and also ensure that Levy funds are spent effectively and in accordance with the statutory objectives, so that it continues to meet racing's needs and delivers against the Levy Board's strategic objectives.

The successful candidate will be required to be in place as soon as appointed.

British horseracing plays an important part in supporting the British economy, contributing £4.1 billion annually and directly employing 18,000 people in racing and breeding. Racing is the second-largest spectator sport in Britain after football and its prestigious festivals are amongst Britain's sporting crown jewels, including The Cheltenham Festival; The Grand National; and Royal Ascot.

The Horserace Betting Levy Board plays an integral role in ensuring the continued success of the sport by collecting the Levy from betting operators and administering the statutory Levy annually. The Levy, which in recent years has raised around £100m annually, provides funding for the improvement of horseracing and veterinary science and equine welfare.

# Person Specification

The Chair will be required to:

- provide leadership to the Board to maximise the impact of the 2017 reforms and oversee the collection of the Levy and strategic distribution decisions;
- uphold the highest standards of governance and ensure that the Levy Board discharges its statutory duties;
- agree the strategic direction of the Levy Board, taking into account the views of racing, bookmakers, veterinary groups, breeding associations and other interested parties to deliver against the Levy Board's strategic objectives;
- review the performance of Board members and executives and ensure skills and experience are appropriately deployed; and
- drive effective relationships with senior stakeholders, including the Government, betting, racing and veterinary industries.

The Chair will be required to represent the views of the Board and will ensure that the Board's decisions are made in accordance with Government issued rules, guidance and transparency. The Chair will also support the Accounting Officer in promoting the efficient and effective use of staff and other resources and the delivery of high standards of regularity and propriety.

# What we are looking for?

## Essential Criteria

The successful candidate will need to demonstrate in their application most of the following:

- Have the ability to chair and encourage participation and information sharing and to challenge constructively;
- Have a strong understanding of corporate governance and a commitment to the principles of public sector propriety, regularity and accountability;
- A strong understanding of budgetary forecasting and management, funding strategy and funding decision-making and be able to provide vision and strategic thinking to the Board;
- Experience in working with stakeholders at senior levels across sectors and be able to achieve consensus and retain stakeholder confidence.

## Desirable Criteria

Applications are particularly welcomed from individuals with knowledge and expertise in the following area:

- Knowledge of the racing and betting industries is desirable rather than essential, but a willingness to develop such knowledge would be expected, including attendance at some race meetings.

The Secretary of State will need to be satisfied that the successful candidate **has no interests connected with horse racing** which might hinder them from discharging their functions as a member of the Board in an impartial manner, as set out in the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963.

# Role details

**Number of roles:** 1

**Term of Appointment:** The term is for four years.

**Remuneration:** The remuneration for this role will be £39,600.

**Time Commitment:** Up to 6 days per month, averaging around 72 days a year.

**Location:** Canary Wharf, London - *Reasonable and fully documented expenses will be reimbursed.*

**Who can apply?** You should have the right to work in the UK to be eligible to apply for a public appointment.

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.

**Security Clearance required:** The successful candidate will be required to undertake Baseline Personnel Security Standard checks in line with the Civil Service guidelines. Additional Security Clearance may also be required for certain roles. However, where this applies, candidates will be notified during the appointment process. Further information on National Security Vetting can be found on the Gov.uk website [here](#).

# Selection process details

## The Panel

The following individuals will make up the Advisory Assessment Panel:

- **Sarah Fox**  
DCMS Panel Chair  
Deputy Director, Gambling and Lotteries
- **Sola Afuape**  
Independent Panel Member
- **Paul Lee**  
Additional Panel Member

<b>Advert closing date:</b>	Monday 13th January 2025
<b>Shortlisting:</b>	February
<b>Interviews:</b>	March

Candidates are asked to note the above timetable, exercising flexibility through the recruitment and selection process.

## Shortlist

The Panel will assess applications against the eligibility criteria and decide which candidates have best met the criteria, who should be recommended for interview. Ministers will then be consulted on the Panel's recommended shortlist. If you have applied under the Disability Confident Scheme and you meet all the essential criteria, then you will also be invited for an interview.

## Feedback

Please note you will only receive feedback if you reach the interview stage. Following interview, all candidates will receive a score along with some short written feedback on your performance at interview.

# How to apply



In order to apply you will need to [create an account](#) or [sign in](#) to the Public Appointments 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)
- a supporting statement
- equality information
- information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues

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.

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.

For the **shortlist**, the Advisory Assessment Panel will select applicants demonstrating the best fit for the role by considering the evidence provided in your application.

# Diversity and Inclusion

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 society they serve.

We collect data about applicants' characteristics and backgrounds, so that we can make sure we are attracting a broad range of people to these roles and that our selection 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 information you provide will not be seen by the Advisory Assessment Panel who review applications against the advertised criteria and conduct interviews.

We are a member of the **Government's Disability Confident scheme**. As part of implementing the scheme, we guarantee an interview for anyone with a disability whose application meets the essential criteria for the role, set out in the advert, 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. By 'essential criteria', we mean that you must provide evidence which demonstrates that you meet the level of competence required under each of the essential criteria, as set out in the job-advert. When you apply you will have the opportunity to select if you would like your application considered under this scheme.

## 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. When you apply you will have the opportunity to request reasonable adjustments to the application process.

# Terms and Conditions

This appointments process adheres to the Cabinet Office Governance Code on Public Appointments which is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

## Eligibility Criteria:

You cannot be considered for a public appointment if:

- you become bankrupt or make an arrangement with a creditor.
- 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.
- you are disqualified from acting as a company director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.
- you have been convicted of a criminal offence, the conviction not being spent for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (c.53)
- you become subject to a debt relief order or a bankruptcy restrictions order.
- you fail to declare any conflict of interest.

## Conflicts of Interest and Due Diligence

If you have any interests that might be relevant to the work of the Horserace Betting Levy Board and which could lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest if you were to be appointed, please provide details in your application. If you have queries about this and would like to discuss further please contact the Public Appointments Team.

Given the nature of public appointments, it is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of Parliament and the public. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment, 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 application. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media.

As part of our due diligence checks we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This will include us undertaking searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This information may be made available to the Advisory Assessment Panel and they may wish to explore issues with you should you be invited to interview. The information may also be shared with ministers and the Cabinet Office.

# Contact Us

If you have any questions about the role please contact Martin Barrett, Horserace Betting Levy Board Secretary ([martin.barrett@hblb.org.uk](mailto:martin.barrett@hblb.org.uk)).

If you have any questions about the appointments process, please contact the Campaign Manager, Emily Nixon ([emily.nixon@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:emily.nixon@dcms.gov.uk)) or the Public Appointments Mailbox ([publicappointments@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:publicappointments@dcms.gov.uk)).

Join the [DCMS Public Appointments Network](#) if you would like to hear about DCMS Appointment opportunities, including future networking events, guidance for candidates and much more.



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