



Horserace Betting Levy Board Member

Public Appointment Candidate Pack

Closing time and date: Wednesday 20 August 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 Member 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

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.

Funds collected and expended by the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) play an integral role in ensuring the continued success of the sport. The Levy in recent years has raised around £100m annually.

HBLB is a statutory body established by the Betting Levy Act 1961 and is an arm's-length body of DCMS. It is required to assess and collect a Levy from betting operators who take bets on British horseracing and then to distribute the funds raised in line with the statutory purposes set out in the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963.

These are:

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



About the role

The Secretary of State is seeking to appoint a new Board Member.

The Board of HBLB is composed of appointees of Government (three appointees), Racing (three) and Betting (one).

Government Appointed Members of the Board provide independence and balance on the Board and support the Chair and the Chief Executive, who is HBLB's Accounting Officer, in ensuring high standards of regularity and propriety in the organisation's operation.

The Secretary of State will need to be satisfied that the successful candidate has no interests connected with horseracing 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.

Lord Risby's term as a Government appointee ends on 31 December 2025 and we are seeking a successor from 1 January 2026.



What we are looking for?

Essential Criteria

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

- a strong understanding of the requirements of public body operation and reporting; and commitment to the principles of public sector propriety, regularity and accountability;
- a strong understanding of budgetary forecasting and management, and the assessment of funding applications;
- an ability to work collegiately but with recognition of the importance of the independence of the role of Government Appointed Member
- experience in working with stakeholders at senior levels across sectors

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.
- Financial/Accountancy qualifications and/or knowledge in IT, Emerging Technologies, Innovation, and Cyber/Digital, would be beneficial.

Role details

Number of roles: 1

Term of Appointment: The term is for four years.

Remuneration: The remuneration for this role will be £19,665 per annum.

Time Commitment: Approximately 2-3 days per month, not including attendance at race meetings and associated events.

Board members are expected to attend board meetings and committee meetings as necessary. It is very likely that the successful candidate will be asked to chair at least one of the Board's Standing Committees (Audit & Risk Assurance; Investment; Remuneration) and to be a member of at least one other. Some additional time will be required to study papers, and to attend events at HBLB and other representational engagements.

Location: Board and committee meetings will usually be held at HBLB's offices in Canary Wharf, east London. At least one Board meeting per year is usually held outside 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
- **Roger Devlin**
ALB Representative
Chair of the Horserace Betting Levy Board
- **Catherine Douglas**
Independent Panel Member

Advert closing date:	20 August 2025, 11:59pm
Shortlisting:	19 September 2025
Interviews:	20 & 22 October 2025

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).

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