



The Royal Parks Chair

Public Appointment Candidate Pack

Closing time and date: 11:59pm, Friday 8 August 2025



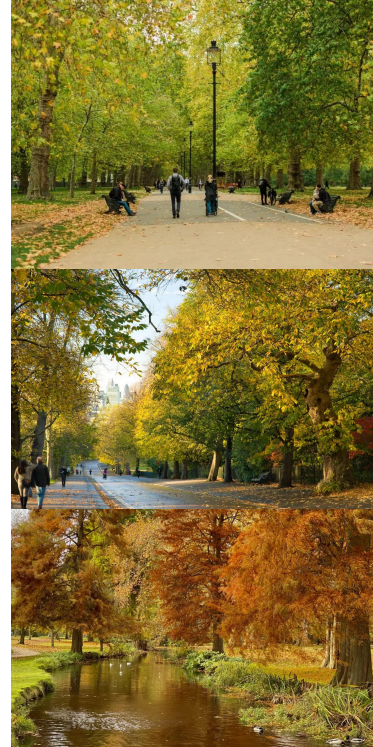
Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

About The Royal Parks

The Royal Parks is a charity and Public Corporation. Its purpose is to oversee the day-to-day management and maintenance of eight Royal Parks: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park & Primrose Hill, Richmond Park and St James's Park, which includes the ceremonial parade ground Horse Guards Parade and the processional route of the Mall. It also cares for other green spaces in the capital including Brompton Cemetery and Victoria Tower Gardens. The Royal Parks are Crown Land, with their responsibility resting with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Royal Parks receives over 77 million visitors a year and plays a key role in the tourism and cultural life of the country. The Royal Parks works closely with key partners including DCMS, the Mayor of London, charitable, sporting, environmental and cultural agencies.

The Royal Parks has a contract with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to carry out day to day management of the estate on her behalf, which currently runs until 2027. Within the first term of the new Chair, this contract will be up for renegotiation/renewal.



To find out more about The Royal Parks take visit <https://www.royalparks.org.uk/>

About the Role



London's Royal Parks are among the country's most iconic visitor attractions, loved by local communities and visitors from across the UK and beyond.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about the success of The Royal Parks (TRP) and wants to help shape its future.

TRP is delivering on an ambitious five-year strategy to ensure the long-term enhancement and protection of the parks for the benefit of this and future generations. The strategy, with sustainability at its core, is overseeing significant investment in the parks, including the delivery of four flagship projects – a major lottery-funded restoration project, Greenwich Park Revealed, and the transformation of a brownfield site in the middle of The Regent's Park into a new two-acre garden in memory of Queen Elizabeth II, future proofing the Diana Memorial Playground in Kensington Gardens and restoring the Roehampton cafe in Richmond Park.

The new Chair will be building on the foundations laid by outgoing Chair Loyd Grossman, and will take forward work examining the longer-term structure and business model of TRP, including potentially insourcing some functions so that a wider range of services can be delivered directly. Work is also ongoing to explore new ways to diversify income.

Person Specification

The main responsibilities of the Chair are:

1. To be an advocate for the Parks and the work of the organisation, and broadening access/awareness of the Parks particularly among diverse communities in London and beyond.
2. Senior stakeholder and partner relationships: acting as an ambassador for TRP, building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders and partners (i.e. Government especially The Department for Culture, Media & Sport; The Royal Household, City Hall, the army and chairs of other organisations.)
3. Visible leadership: inside and outside TRP – attending and speaking at TRP events; visits to projects; attending external events on behalf of TRP.
4. Working with the Chief Executive and senior executive team: supporting and holding the Chief Executive to account, setting and reviewing annual objectives, routine working meetings (every two weeks), regular phone calls/emails for consultation and sharing information, support and guidance as required.
5. Strategic oversight: support the Executive team in embedding TRP Strategy 2022-27. Support renewal/renegotiation of the DCMS/TRP Contract for Services.
6. Board leadership: agreeing agendas for and chairing main Board meetings; ensuring Board effectiveness and Trustee appraisals; potentially chairing key sub-committees.



What are we looking for?

The ideal candidate would have the following key skills and experience:

Essential requirements:

- A clear grasp of the historical significance and distinctive role and character of the parks and an understanding of the importance of TRP's relationship with Government including the role of the Parks in ceremonial, sporting and other events of national significance;
- A commitment to promoting and widening access to the Parks for everyone, considering the needs of all park users, with a purpose of fostering greater social cohesion; this includes close engagement with TRP's 'access and engagement' objectives;
- Senior experience within a sizeable organisation, at Board level or equivalent, and an understanding of the principles of corporate governance;
- Commercial expertise at a senior level, or experience of leading an organisation in the commercial sector;
- Good communication skills and the ability to act as an advocate for the charity with key stakeholders including Government, donors, supporters, and visitors.

Desirable skills:

- Experience of contract management and negotiation processes, including commercial contracts.



Job details

Number of roles: 1

Term of Appointment: The term of appointment is 4 years.

Remuneration: The role is unpaid but reasonable expenses will be paid.

Time of Commitment: 3 to 4 days per month

There is a flexible but significant time commitment including attending approximately six Board meetings each year together with related governance responsibilities including at least one strategy day and potentially serving on sub committees. Additionally there is regular engagement with the CEO, trustees and others between meetings

The Chair keeps in regular contact with the Chief Executive and the trustees through regular bilateral meetings. Periodic evening stakeholder events take place throughout the year.

Location of Meetings: London

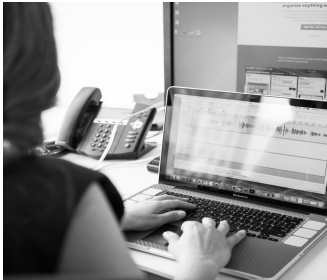
Who can apply? You should have the right to work in the UK to be eligible to apply for a public appointment.

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](#).

How to apply



To apply for this role, you will need to submit the following documents which will be assessed against the **essential criteria**:

- A **CV** setting out your career history, with key responsibilities and achievements. Please ensure you provide employment history and non-executive experience that relates to the essential and desirable criteria. The CV should not exceed more than 2 x A4 pages.
- A **Statement of Suitability** (max 2 pages) explaining how you consider your personal skills, qualities and experience provide evidence of your suitability for the role in reference to the essential requirements highlighted. You may also choose to reference the desirable skills listed however these will not be considered in the assessment of your application except in circumstances where there are a high number and calibre of candidates.
- A **Diversity Information Form** and **Conflicts of Interest Form** relating to any outside interests or reputational issues should be submitted.

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.

Apply Online - <https://apply-for-public-appointment.service.gov.uk/roles>

Selection process details

The Advisory Assessment Panel

The following individuals will make up the Advisory Assessment Panel:

Nicola Hewer

DCMS Panel Chair
Director of Visitor Economy, Heritage, Loans, Art Collection

John Barradell OBE

Senior Independent Panel Member

Dame Helen Ghosh

Additional Panel Member

Nadeem Javaid MBE

Greater London Authority Representative

Advert closing date:	11:59pm, Friday 8 August 2025
Shortlisting:	w/c 15 September
Interviews:	w/c 13 October

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.

Diversity and Inclusion

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. This will include embedding a commitment to the principles of levelling up and championing opportunity for all across the organisation, helping to ensure that the organisation is one in which a genuinely diverse range of views can be expressed, without fear or favour.

We ask all applicants to complete a diversity monitoring form. We hope you will help us by providing this information. Your data is not disclosed to the panel, but allows us to constantly evaluate any potential barriers to becoming a public appointee and what we can do to encourage a more diverse field to apply.

We try to guarantee an interview to anyone with a disability whose application meets the minimum criteria for the role. By 'minimum criteria,' we mean that you must provide evidence in your application, which demonstrates that you meet the level of competence required under each of the essential criteria.

If you wish to apply under this scheme, either state this in the covering email or letter when submitting your application or contact the team. This will in no way prejudice your application.

Reasonable adjustments

If you would like a confidential discussion regarding any reasonable adjustments during the process, please indicate this in the covering email or letter or communicate with the public appointments team, who will be happy to discuss this with you.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about the role please contact the James Crudgington (jcrudgington@royalparks.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.



Department
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THE
ROYAL
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