



The Office of the Civil Service Commissioners

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PRESS RELEASE

NEW CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED

Seven new Civil Service Commissioners were appointed by the Crown today after open competition.

The Commissioners are independent of Ministers and the Civil Service. They make sure that appointments to the Service are made on merit after fair and open competition. They also advise departments on the promotion of the core values of the Civil Service as set out in the Civil Service Code and hear appeals from civil servants under it.

The new Commissioners are:

Sir Michael Aaronson CBE

Michael is the Chairman, Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; a Non-executive Director, Oxford Policy Management Limited; the Chair of the Board, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva; and a Governor of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. He started his career as a diplomat. He joined Save the Children in 1988 and was its Chief Executive between 1995 and 2005.

Mark Addison

Mark holds non-executive roles at the National Archives and Salix Finance. He left the Civil Service in 2006 as the Director General, Operations and Service Delivery, Defra. He was previously the Chief Executive, Crown Prosecution Service (1998-2001).

James Boyle

James is the Chairman, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature. He was previously the Controller, BBC Radio 4 (1996-2001) and the Chairman, Scottish Arts Council (2001-04). He was a Civil Service Commissioner between 2001 and 2005.

Bernard Knight

Bernard has spent most of his career in Local Government. He has just retired from Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council where he was the Chief Executive from 1997. He was previously the Chief Executive, West Lancashire Council (1990-97).

Anthea Millett CBE

Anthea was previously the Chief Executive, Teacher Training Agency (1995-99); the Head of the Quality Assurance Unit, Teachers Performance Division, DfEE (2000-02); the Chair, Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority (2002-06) and the interim Chair, Wiltshire PCT until December 2006.

Ranjit Sondhi

Ranjit is the Chair, Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT; a Trustee, National Gallery; and a Trustee of the Baring Foundation. He was a Member of the Home Secretary's Race Relations Forum (1998-2002) and a Governor, BBC (1998-2006).

Elisabeth Watkins

Elisabeth has been a judge at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal since 1992. She was Deputy Chief Adjudicator (2001-04), Acting Chief Adjudicator (2004-05) and became Deputy President in 2005. She was a member of the National Lottery Charities Board/Community Fund Board (1998-2005) and Chairman of the Wales Committee (2002-04).

First Civil Service Commissioner, Janet Paraskeva, today welcomed the new Commissioners:

“I am delighted that such high calibre people will join us as Commissioners. They will bring new insight and expertise to our team, and complement our existing strengths and private sector and human resources experience.

They join us at an exciting time, when the Civil Service is under greater scrutiny than ever before. As Commissioners we are committed to the reform of the Civil Service while maintaining its core values of integrity, honesty, impartiality, objectivity and selection on merit. I very much look forward to working with them.”

The Commissioners posts are part-time and are remunerated.

Notes to Editors

1. Media enquiries about the work of the Commissioners should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.
2. More information about the Civil Service Commissioners can be found at www.civilservicecommissioners.gov.uk
3. The Civil Service Commissioners are independent of Ministers and the Civil Service. They are responsible for maintaining the principle of recruitment to the Civil Service – selection on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. They also advise departments on the promotion of the core values of the Civil Service as set out in the Civil Service Code and hear and determine appeals from civil servants under it.
4. The Commissioners have been appointed following open competition. James Boyle has been reinstated as a Commissioner. He was first appointed in 2001 following an open competition.