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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dear Frank".

24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

I am writing to you following the Question for Short Debate secured by Lord Holmes on the 24 June with regards to action the government is taking to ensure that the boards of public bodies are fully representative of, and reflect, the society they serve.

I wanted to thank you for the helpful contribution you made during the debate. As you may already be aware, last month the government published its response to the Lord Holmes review, accepting the principle of all Lord Holmes' recommendations. Many of Lord Holmes' recommendations have the potential to benefit not only people with disabilities who wish to apply for public appointments, but also other groups currently under-represented in public appointments. We have therefore refreshed our Public Appointments Diversity Action Plan (DAP), which was also published alongside the government's response to Lord Holmes. Copies of both the government's response to Lord Holmes and the refreshed DAP have been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

With regard to your points about the wider cultural dimension of public appointments, the refreshed DAP includes important work around raising awareness of public appointment opportunities and engaging more effectively with the public, professional networks and businesses. As part of this, we will build stronger links with existing networks and organisations to help us reach under-represented groups. Our approach will include a plan to showcase role models. This work should contribute to promoting the standing of public service as you suggest.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lord Young of Cookham".

LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM CH