



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Amanda Solloway MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary
Minister for Science, Research &
Innovation

Department for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Chi Onwurah MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

21 April 2021

Dear Chi,

ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INVENTION AGENCY BILL

During the Public Bill Committee on 20 April you asked me in what circumstances the Secretary of State might consider removing the chair from his or her position and I committed to writing to you on the matter.

The question relates to the grounds on which the Secretary of State might remove the chair using their power under subparagraph 6(3) of Schedule 1 to the Bill.

There are many examples of behaviours which would signal unfitness for the purpose of carrying out the functions of the chair. This includes, but is not limited to, the misuse of information gained in the course of their public service for personal gain or a failure to act in good faith or in the best interests of ARIA.

The chair of ARIA will be held to the same high standards as equivalent figures in other public bodies. As part of the Framework Document, the chair will be required to follow the *Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies*, which sets out the personal and professional standards expected from board members and forms part of individual members' terms and conditions of appointment.

The Code of Conduct includes, for example, the obligation to declare publicly any private financial or non-financial interests which may, or may be perceived to, conflict with one's public duty.

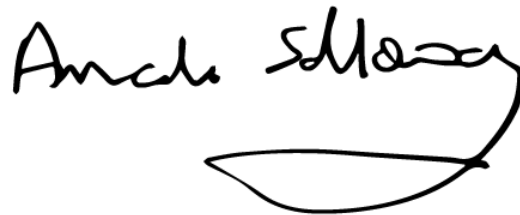
This Secretary of State power represents just one of a number of mechanisms by which ARIA can be held to account by the Government.

It sits alongside the many avenues available to Parliament to scrutinise ARIA – the same as other statutory corporations are subject to. This includes scrutiny by select committees, such as the Science and Technology Committee, and by the National Audit Office, who are expected to report on ARIA for discussion at the Public Accounts Committee.

ARIA will also have its audited accounts and annual report laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State.

I trust this addresses your query and I would like to thank you for your important work in scrutinising the Bill. I am copying this letter to all members of the Public Bill Committee and I will be placing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Solloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

AMANDA SOLLOWAY MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Minister for Science, Research and
Innovation