



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

James Blythe
*Deputy Director, Executive Team &
Central Operations*

Sir William Shawcross CVO
The Commissioner for Public Appointments
G/8, 1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and
Local Government**

4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/mhclg

Email: publicappointments@csc.gov.uk

Email: james.blythe@communities.gov.uk

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Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to consult you on the appointment without competition of Mo Baines to the role of Lead Non-Executive Director (NED) of MHCLG's departmental board, for a period of up to 12 months.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government acknowledges that Section 3.3 of the Governance Code on Public Appointments specifies that appointments without competition should only happen in exceptional circumstances. The Deputy Prime Minister has decided that exceptional circumstances exist in this instance: MHCLG's departmental board has been without Non-Executive Board Members since 7 July 2024 and has been unable to meet during this time. An interim Lead NED appointment is needed urgently to deliver ministerial priorities and to ensure that there is NED representation at the first Ministerial Board in November. We are preparing to launch a campaign for new NEDs in the Autumn to bring the board back to full complement and intend for the interim Lead NED to join the Advisory Assessment Panel.

Mo has extensive and broad experience of working in public policy and local government, with a particular background in service delivery models, local government finance and research. She is the Chief Executive at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) and visiting professor at the University of Staffordshire's Centre for Business, Innovation and the Regions.

The Deputy Prime Minister is satisfied that all of the other requirements of the Code have been fulfilled in making this appointment without competition: that she is acting in the public interest; that any perceived or potential conflict of interests have been satisfactorily mitigated; that the individual is sufficiently meritorious to be appointed; that due regard has been given to the Public Sector Equality Duty; and that there is no other reason that they are aware of which might cause this individual to be unsuitable to undertake the role.

This appointment is planned to be announced immediately after having received a response from you.

Yours sincerely,

James Blythe
Deputy Director, Executive Team & Central Operations