House of Commons
Health Committee

Appointment of the Chair of the Care Quality Commission

Fifth Report of Session 2012–13

Volume I

Report, together with formal minutes

Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed 11 December 2012
The Health Committee

The Health Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department of Health and its associated bodies.

Membership

Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP (Conservative, Charnwood) (Chair)\(^1\)
Rosie Cooper MP (Labour, West Lancashire)
Andrew George MP (Liberal Democrat, St Ives)
Barbara Keeley MP (Labour, Worsley and Eccles South)
Grahame M. Morris MP (Labour, Easington)
Andrew Percy MP (Conservative, Brigg and Goole)
Mr Virendra Sharma MP (Labour, Ealing Southall)
Chris Skidmore MP (Conservative, Kingswood)
David Tredinnick MP (Conservative, Bosworth)
Valerie Vaz MP (Labour, Walsall South)
Dr Sarah Wollaston MP (Conservative, Totnes)

Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/healthcom.

The Reports of the Committee, the formal minutes relating to that report, oral evidence taken and some or all written evidence are available in printed volume(s).

Additional written evidence may be published on the internet only.

Committee staff

The staff of the Committee are David Lloyd (Clerk), Martyn Atkins (Second Clerk), David Turner (Committee Specialist), Stephen Aldhouse (Committee Specialist), Frances Allingham (Senior Committee Assistant), and Ronnie Jefferson (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Health Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5466. The Committee’s email address is healthcom@parliament.uk.

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1 Mr Stephen Dorrell was elected as the Chair of the Committee on 9 June 2010, in accordance with Standing Order No. 122B (see House of Commons Votes and Proceedings, 10 June 2010).
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Appointment of the Chair of the Care Quality Commission

1. On 7 September 2012 Dame Jo Williams tendered her resignation as Chair of the Care Quality Commission (CQC). On 3 October 2012, the Secretary of State for Health wrote to inform the Committee that a process to recruit a new Chair would take place as soon as possible, and invited us to hold a pre-appointment hearing once a preferred candidate had been selected. On 29 November 2012, the Secretary of State informed us that the Government proposed to appoint David Prior as Chair of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and asked the Committee to hold a pre-appointment hearing to consider this proposal. The Committee held the hearing on 5 December 2012.

2. The hearing addressed Mr Prior’s background, previous experience and views on the challenges facing the CQC and its board. We examined Mr Prior’s views on governance of the CQC Board, its ability to accommodate additional regulatory functions and the core purpose of the organisation. We also asked Mr Prior to discuss how, if appointed, he would approach matters relating to the method of inspection, communication with patients, residents and relatives and changing the organisational culture within providers.

3. On the basis of the discussions during the pre-appointment hearing, we are satisfied that David Prior has the professional competence and personal independence required of the Chair of the Care Quality Commission. We are pleased to endorse his appointment.
Appendix 1: Letter from the Secretary of State for Health

LETTER FROM THE RT HON JEREMY HUNT MP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH, TO THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, 29 NOVEMBER 2012

Chair of the Care Quality Commission

I am writing to inform you that, following the conclusion of an open recruitment campaign, my preferred candidate for appointment as the next Chair of the Care Quality Commission is Mr David Prior.

David Prior is Chairman of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals Foundation Trust and Chair of an Academy School. David qualified as a barrister in 1976 and spent ten years in the steel industry, before moving into private equity. Between 1995–2002 he served in a number of political roles, including as MP for North Norfolk, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the Conservative Party and a member of the Trade and Industry Select Committee. He has also been Chair of a wide range of private companies. I have attached a copy of his CV.

I have also attached a background paper on the recruitment process and copies of the Information Pack and advertisement for the campaign.

I understand that the Committee intends to hold a pre-appointment hearing on Wednesday 5th December. David Prior will attend and I look forward to receiving your report following the hearing.

I have copied this letter to David Prior and Dame Anne Pringle, Public Appointments Assessor, who chaired the selection panel.
Appendix 2: Curriculum Vitae for David Prior

Curriculum Vitae
DAVID PRIOR

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

1976 Qualified as a Barrister
1972–80 Cambridge University (Law MA, Exhibition)
Lehman Brothers, Investment Banking
Lazard Frere, Investment Bankers

CURRENT OCCUPATION:
Chairman, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (acute teaching hospital with 6,500 staff, revenue of £450 million and 1,000 beds)
Director, Aurelian Oil and Gas Plc (AIM listed oil and gas exploration business with interests in East and Central Europe)
Chairman, Ormiston Victory Academy (a comprehensive school with c. 1,000 students)
Chairman, Sir Isaac Newton Free School (proposed sixth form college with 450 students specialising in Mathematics and Science)

PREVIOUS OCCUPATION
1995–2002 (Politics)
Member of Parliament for North Norfolk
Deputy Chairman and CEO, Conservative Party
Trade and Industry Select Committee

1990–1995 (Private Equity)
Established a development capital fund to acquire a range of businesses, including A.J. Williams Ltd, B K Bluebird Ltd, IPS Group Ltd and Lurmark Ltd.

1980–1990 (Steel Industry)
Assistant to Sir Ian Macgregor, Chairman British Steel.
Managing Director, British Steel Service Centres Ltd
Commercial Director, British Steel plc
Executive Chairman, Bore Steel Group
Formal Minutes

Tuesday 11 December 2012

Members present:

Mr Stephen Dorrell, in the Chair

Grahame M. Morris
Andrew Percy
Mr Virendra Sharma

Draft Report (Appointment of the Chair of the Care Quality Commission), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 3 read and agreed to.

Papers were appended to the Report as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fifth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 18 December at 9.30 am.]
# List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

The reference number of the Government’s response to each Report is printed in brackets after the HC printing number.

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