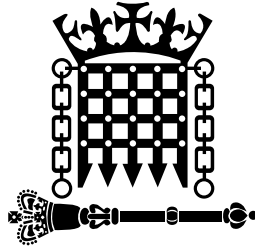


PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS ACT 2009



THE SPEAKER'S COMMITTEE FOR THE INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY

SECOND REPORT 2016

Appointment of an IPSA Board Member

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The Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

The Speaker's Committee for the IPSA is appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 as amended by the Constitutional Reform & Governance Act 2010.

Current membership

[Rt Hon John Bercow MP](#), Speaker of the House of Commons (Chair)

[Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP](#), Leader of the House (*ex officio*)

[Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP](#), Chair of the Standards and Privileges Committee (*ex officio*)

[Rt Hon Nicholas Brown MP](#)

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[Mr Charles Walker MP](#)

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1 Appointment of an IPSA Board Member

1. The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) was established by the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009. The Chair of the Board of IPSA and other Board Members are appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, following an Address from the House of Commons. The Speaker of the House of Commons is required to select individuals to serve on the Board of IPSA “on merit [and on] the basis of fair and open competition”, and the Speaker’s Committee for the IPSA must approve all candidates selected by the Speaker. In practice the Speaker chooses to consult and involve the Speaker’s Committee throughout the appointment process.

2. Under the Parliamentary Standards Act, one Member of the IPSA Board must be a person who has been (but is no longer) a member of the House of Commons (the “Parliamentary Member”). On 1 December 2015 the House of Commons agreed a Humble Address asking Her Majesty to appoint John Thurso to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020, as the Parliamentary Member. Viscount Thurso’s appointment was recommended to the House following a fair and open competition overseen by an independent panel, and with the agreement of the Speaker’s Committee on IPSA.¹

3. In April 2016, Viscount Thurso was elected to the House of Lords in a by-election of Liberal Democrat peers following the death of Lord Avebury. On 8 May 2016 Viscount Thurso wrote to Mr Speaker, under Schedule 1 Part 1 para 5(2) of the Parliamentary Standards Act, to tender his resignation from the Board of IPSA. His last day as a member of the IPSA Board will be 6 August 2016.

Appointment of a candidate from the reserve list

4. Although this is not a Ministerial appointment, the Speaker has regard to the Commissioner for Public Appointments’ Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies when making appointments to IPSA. The Code of Practice on Public Appointments states that “Where a vacancy occurs within 12 months of the conclusion of a previous appointments process, and the role and person specification for both posts are the same, Departments may put forward appointable candidates from the reserve list from the first competition to the Minister for appointment to the new vacancy.”²

5. The Committee met on 14 June to discuss how to proceed and agreed to offer the position of Parliamentary Member of the IPSA Board to Jenny Willott, former Member of Parliament for Cardiff Central, who was identified as an appointable candidate in the previous recruitment process.

1 For full details of the process please see the Committee’s First Report of 2015 “Appointment of IPSA Board Members”. HC 619

2 Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to public Bodies para 11.1

The candidate

6. Jenny Willott was a member of the House of Commons between 2005 and 2015 during which time she served as Minister for Consumer Affairs & Employment Relations, Minister for Women and Equalities, and as Liberal Democrat Deputy Chief Whip. Before entering Parliament, Ms Willott had a successful career in the third sector, including as Head of Advocacy of UNICEF UK and Chief Executive of Victims Support South Wales.

7. The Committee invites the House to approve an Address to Her Majesty for the appointment of Jenny Willott as a Member of the Board of IPSA for the period from 7 August 2016 to 31 December 2020.

List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

First Report of 2015	Appointment of IPSA Board Members	HC 619
First Report of 2016	Appointment of the Chair of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority	HC 906