

**NATIONAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMISSION**

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FEBRUARY 2019

**NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN GROUP**  
RECRUITMENT PACK

## **NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION**

### **About the National Infrastructure Commission**

The National Infrastructure Commission was established in 2015 to provide independent, impartial advice on meeting the country's long-term infrastructure needs.

It has three key objectives:

- \* To support sustainable economic growth across all regions of the UK;
- \* To improve competitiveness; and
- \* To improve people's quality of life

Through its work, the National Infrastructure Commission aims to be the UK's most credible, forward thinking and influential voice on infrastructure policy and strategy:

- \* **Credible:** Producing reports and analysis of the highest quality, written in plain English, independently of Government and all vested interests, and making clear recommendations based on rigorous evidence; and developing an evidence base which sets a gold standard in its quality and breadth;
- \* **Forward thinking:** taking a strategic approach, which links long-term priorities with short-term action and considering infrastructure as a system, not as a collection of silos; maintaining an international perspective and engaging closely with leading edge expertise; and open to new approaches and ideas;
- \* **Influential:** building broad support for its analysis and recommendations, working across society, government, parliament and industry; producing work which is objective, fair and transparent; looking for deliverable solutions, and following up on recommendations

### **The National Infrastructure Assessment**

In July 2018, the Commission published the first ever National Infrastructure Assessment, setting out a plan of action for the country's infrastructure over the next 10 to 30 years, making recommendations on transport, energy, water and waste water, flood resilience, digital connectivity and solid waste in addition to other cross-cutting issues (e.g. funding, design and financing).

The Commission also produces in-depth studies into the UK's most pressing infrastructure challenges and monitors the Government's progress in delivering infrastructure projects and programmes it recommends, through an Annual Monitoring Report.

## National Infrastructure Commission

The National Infrastructure Assessment recommended that to embed design in the culture of infrastructure planning:

- all Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, including those authorised through hybrid parliamentary bills, should have a board level design champion and use a design panel to maximise the value provided by the infrastructure
- design panels for nationally significant infrastructure projects should be established having regard to design principles to be published by the National Infrastructure Commission based on advice received from the National Infrastructure Design Group

To support this agenda, the Assessment said that a new independent National Infrastructure Design Group, to be established by the Commission, will develop infrastructure design principles to be published in 2019. These principles will influence good design process and practice and guide to design panels to deliver user focused investment with a wider range of benefits. The Design Group will also act as a champion of design quality in the nation's infrastructure. For example by:-

- Commissioning and promoting National infrastructure design principles
- Commissioning research on the added value that design brings
- Commissioning and publishing research to promote continuous improvement in infrastructure design quality
- Providing inspiration and intelligence on good infrastructure design
- Promoting and supporting public debate on infrastructure design.

This recruitment is to launch the National Infrastructure Design Group chaired by Professor Sadie Morgan to support the implementation of these recommendations. The Design Group will also build positive relationships with other panels including the MHCLG Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission, Highways England, Network Rail and HS2 to support improved recommendations and project outcomes.

### **National Infrastructure Design Group**

The National Infrastructure Design Group will be a non-executive advisory group to the Commission. We are seeking to recruit up to five members for a three-year term to join the three existing members of the Commission's Design Task force. The Design Task Force will be disbanded when the National Infrastructure Design Group is launched. The Group membership will also include participation from the NIC Young Professionals Panel.

The Group will be called on to advise on a range of issues to support the recommendations made in the National Infrastructure Assessment related to the design of infrastructure it will: -

- Champion design quality on the nation's infrastructure

## National Infrastructure Commission

- Undertake research into the added value that design can bring
- Put in place the measures to support the introduction of board level champions and the use of design panels to maximise the value provided by infrastructure.
- Develop design principles for publication by the Commission
- Convene discussions between and publish advice for the design panels on nationally significant projects.

It will build a strong public profile reporting to the Commission and supporting the Commission aims and objectives, including the dissemination of advice and support to improve project design outcomes.

The Group will be supported by Commission Secretariat resource to develop, champion and disseminate the Design Group's research and advice.

### **Member duties will be**

- To be an active member of the National Infrastructure Design Group by providing independent advice and insight
- To support the effective operation of the Design Group and work collaboratively with the Chair, other members and the Secretariat
- To support the Design Group in achieving the recommendations of the Assessment on design
- To support the Design Group in undertaking its role as a champion of design quality in the nation's infrastructure.

### **Candidate specification**

The National Infrastructure Design Group will advise on how best to ensure quality design in future national infrastructure. We are interested in applications from a wide range of disciplines, including leaders, professionals, practitioners and academics with built environment, engineering related to infrastructure design, ecology, sustainability, natural environment and design expertise. We would welcome applications from all regions of the UK including public, private and/or voluntary sectors. We are seeking candidates with the following: -

- Critical decision-making ability related to design and infrastructure outcomes
- Demonstrable evidence of exemplary team working and consensual decision-making
- The ability to provide independent challenge
- A full understanding of the political, reputational and policy sensitivities of a non-executive role in public life and an ability to work in a high-profile role under close public scrutiny
- Availability and ability to commit to a minimum of 4 half day meetings per year and about six additional days as required to support the Design Group activities.

**Essential skills – at least two of the following**

- An evidenced enthusiasm for the championing and delivering excellent design outcomes
- Evidence of high-level expertise in a relevant infrastructure sector or sectors and /or large-scale projects.
- Evidence of published research peer reviewed or industry recognised, related to infrastructure and/or design

**Desirable skills**

- A clear understanding of where and how effective design processes can champion optimum infrastructure solutions
- A knowledge of multi sector interfaces related to the design of infrastructure projects
- Knowledge and experience of developing or using design principles for projects or programmes
- Experience of major and/or infrastructure project development process and how design decision making is undertaken to achieve optimum outcomes
- An ability to think objectively and be strategic analytical and collaborative.
- Ability to engage and motivate stakeholders

**Principles of Public Life:**

Design Group members are required to uphold the seven principles of public life:

- Selflessness: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.
- Integrity: Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.
- Objectivity: Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
- Accountability: Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

## National Infrastructure Commission

- Openness: Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.
- Honesty: Holders of public office should be truthful.
- Leadership: Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

### Terms of the appointment

The remuneration will be at a rate of £500 per day. Reasonable travel and expenses will be paid. The appointment will be for up to 3 years.

The time commitment will be to attend four half day meetings a year at the National Infrastructure Commission's offices London supplemented by additional engagements to support the Design Group's purpose.

An additional inception and introductory meeting will be held in the first year to support the establishment of the Design Group

The anticipated time commitment will be about 6 days per annum.

### Recruitment

The Commission is seeking members for the National Infrastructure Design Group to include a collectively appropriate balance of skills and experience, with minimal conflict with outside interests. Furthermore, to support, embrace and promote equality of opportunity including the selection of a diverse group in terms of gender, ethnic background, ages and approaches the initial shortlisting process will be name blind.

### Timetable

The interview panel for shortlisted applicants will include Philip Graham Chief Executive National Infrastructure Commission, Commissioner Professor Sadie Morgan and members of the Design Task Force. The shortlisting selection panel include an Independent Design Adviser to the Commission.

The recruitment timetable: preliminary dates for interview and notification may be subject to change dependent on interviewer availability.

Closing date for receipt of applications	<b>15 March 2019</b>
Application review and shortlisting	<b>18 - 22 March 2019</b>
Interviews	<b>3 - 5 April 2019</b>
Notification	<b>15 April 2019</b>

Anticipated introductory meeting	10 May 2019
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## Equal Opportunity

The National Infrastructure Commission embraces diversity and promotes equality of opportunity; we welcome qualified applicants from all backgrounds.

## How to Apply

Please send completed applications comprising the following four documents to [enquiries@nic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nic.gov.uk)

1. The Political-Activity-Conflict-of-Interest-and-Guarantee Form
2. The NON OCPA Monitoring form
3. A Covering letter in which you succinctly address in a maximum of 2 A4 sides how your skills meet the
  - I) At least two of the essential criteria
  - II) one or more of the desirable criteriarequirements of the role
4. A CV with details of your qualifications, employment history, skills and experience and the names of two referees who may be contacted after shortlisting stage before final interview.

Note: The shortlisting process will be name blind therefore please put your mobile number as an identifier on the top RHS of 3. The covering letter and 4. The CV , but omit your name and e-mail address from these two documents (3 and 4).

All applications should be sent by e-mail to [enquiries@nic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@nic.gov.uk) by **5pm 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019** with the title **DESIGN GROUP** in the subject box

All applicants are invited to review the attached Public Appointment Recruitment Privacy Notice. If you have any questions about the appointment or the process, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at [kay.hughes@nic.gov.uk](mailto:kay.hughes@nic.gov.uk)

## Stay informed

You can keep up to date with all the latest news about National Infrastructure Commission through a range of communication channels:

National Infrastructure Commission

**Our website:** <https://www.nic.org.uk>

**Follow us on Twitter** [@NatInfraCom](https://twitter.com/NatInfraCom)

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