



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Commission on Human
Medicines

Commissioners of the Commission on Human Medicines

Information pack for applicants

Closing date: midday on Thursday, 11 November 2021
Reference no: VAC-1745



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Section 1 – The Role

1.1 Role and Responsibilities of a Commissioner of the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM)

Introduction

Ministers are seeking to appoint eleven commissioners to the board of the Commission on Human Medicines.

Role and responsibilities of a Commissioner

Commissioners are required to:

- possess or develop a working knowledge and understanding of the UK medicines regulatory procedures
- attend all scheduled and unscheduled meetings of the CHM (and to be present for the whole meeting)
- consider, comment and contribute by drawing on their individual expertise and judgement, as appropriate, on all agenda items and to assist the CHM to frame clear and unequivocal advice to Ministers in accordance with the CHM's terms of reference
- be able and prepared to speak on a range of relevant issues and not just on their own areas of specialism
- provide formal and informal advice to Ministers between meetings when required
- contribute to and ensure the CHM's advice takes account of a wider view of risk and benefit, particularly as it is perceived by patients, carers and other members of the public

Qualities required for the role of Commissioner

The Department of Health and Social Care values and promotes diversity and encourages applications from all sections of the community. The boards of public bodies should reflect the population they are there to serve. Boards also benefit from fresh perspectives, and we are always keen to encourage candidates with private sector experience to consider applying for our roles.

We are looking to recruit ten specialist members and one lay member.

Essential Criteria

To be considered, you must be able to demonstrate that you have the qualities, skills and experience to meet all the essential criteria for appointment.

You will:

- demonstrate the ability to operate effectively on a national expert scientific committee
- be a skilled communicator
- demonstrate the ability to assimilate complex scientific information at short notice
- demonstrate the ability and be prepared to contribute actively to the work of the CHM

In addition, for the ten specialist posts successful candidates should be recognised by their peers and/or be Fellows of the relevant Royal Colleges in one of the following areas:

- immunologist
- neurologist
- infectious disease specialists (2 posts)
- general practice
- a nurse specialist
- toxicologists (2 posts)
- psychiatrist
- an expert in data science with a particular interest in cardiovascular disease

Remuneration

The Commissioners are remunerated at the standard rate of £325 per meeting.

- Remuneration is taxable, and subject to National Insurance contributions, both of which will be deducted at source under PAYE before you are paid. Remuneration is not pensionable.
- You may claim travel and subsistence expenses, which are properly and necessarily incurred in carrying out your role and responsibilities as a Commissioner of the CHM, in line with travel and subsistence policy and rates for the CHM. A copy of the policy and rates can be obtained from the CHM.

Time commitment

- Approximately 22 days per year, including 11 meetings and any ad-hoc meetings based on need.

Location

London

Tenure of office

Ministers determine that the length of the appointment will be up to a maximum of 4 years.

Accountability

Commissioners are appointed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and are accountable to the Secretary of State via the Chair for carrying out their duties and for their performance.

For further information regarding the role of the CHM and the role of a Commissioner please contact:

CHM Appointments Team

Tel: 020 3080 6060

Email: ECS.Appointment@mhra.gov.uk

1.2 Roles and Responsibilities of the CHM

Introduction from the Chair

Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed, Chair to the Commission on Human Medicines

The CHM serves a vital role in public health in the UK, impacting on the lives of almost every person in the country. It is an honour and privilege to serve as Chair: I learn an enormous amount from every meeting, and it is great to work with excellent colleagues, with such a diverse range of expertise, within the CHM and the MHRA. I would certainly recommend applying for the CHM – your expertise will make an enormous difference.

The functions of the CHM

The Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) was established in October 2005. Its functions are set out in regulation 10 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (as amended).

CHM is responsible for:

- advising on applications for National marketing authorisations and orphan designations (GB) for medicines
- considering further representation against its provisional advice in respect of national marketing authorisation applications
- advising on the need for, and content of, risk management plans for new medicines
- advising on the impact of new safety issues on the balance of risks and benefits of licensed medicines - e.g. adding warnings, restricting or suspending use of a medicine
- advising the MHRA and Health Ministers on changes to legal status of marketing authorisations

Background on some aspects of the CHM's work

The CHM has 17 Commissioners (including the Chair) appointed by Ministers and meets at least 11 times a year. The work of the CHM is supported by Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) and Expert Working Groups comprising a broad range of experts. The Commission plays a public health role in ensuring medicines are safe, effective and of acceptable quality.

An annual report is produced at the end of each calendar year which is laid before parliament and made public. A link to the 2020 report is available through the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-medicines-regulations-2012-advisory-bodies-annual-report-2020>

The proposed CHM meeting dates for 2022, have been published on GOV.UK website:

[Membership - Commission on Human Medicines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Section 2: How to Apply

2.1 Making an application

Thank you for your interest in the appointment of a Commissioner to the CHM.

To make an application please email your CV, a supporting letter and completed Monitoring form to:

appointments.team@dhsc.gov.uk – please quote **VAC-1745** in the subject field.

If you are unable to apply by email, please contact: Qasher Mahmood on 0207 972 3085

Applications must be received by **midday on 11th November 2021**.

In making an application please note the following:

Supporting letter

The supporting letter is your opportunity to demonstrate how you meet each of the criteria set out in the person specification. It will benefit the Advisory Assessment Panel if you can be clear which specific evidence you provide relates to which criteria. Providing separate paragraphs in relation to each criterion is common practice. Please write all acronyms in full first.

Please ensure your full name, the role to which you are applying and the corresponding reference number for the post are clearly noted at the top of your letter.

Please limit your letter to two pages, and type or write clearly in black ink.

Conflicts of interest

If you have any business or personal interests that might be relevant to the work of the CHM, and which could lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest if you were to be appointed, please provide details in your supporting letter.

If appointed, you will also be required to declare these interests on appointment and they will be entered on a register which is available to the public.

Standards in public life and ensuring public confidence

Given the nature of public appointments, it is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of the public and Government. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history (including any convictions or bankruptcy) that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment to Ministers or the CHM or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Advisory Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue/s in your supporting letter. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media and blogs. Due Diligence may be carried out on any publicly available information and shared with the Advisory Assessment Panel.

The panel may explore any issues you declare with you before they make a recommendation on the appointment.

Failure to disclose such information could result in an appointment being terminated, as those who hold public appointments are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of corporate and personal conduct and are required to subscribe to the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies, as part of agreeing to the terms and conditions of appointment. You can access this document at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/board-members-of-public-bodies-code-of-conduct>

There are also circumstances in which individuals may not be considered for appointment, due to them not meeting certain eligibility criteria for appointment. For further information, please refer to **Section 2.3: Eligibility Criteria**

If you wish to discuss any queries on potential conflicts, please see the contacts section.

CV

Please ensure your CV includes:

- Your full name, title, home address, personal contact telephone numbers (land line and mobile), personal email address and details of any twitter accounts and LinkedIn accounts including your twitter handle/username.
- Similar contact details for two referees who will support your application. One referee should be the person to whom you are/were accountable in your current/most recent appointment or position of employment. Please indicate the relationship of each referee to you. References will be requested for short-listed candidates prior to interview.

- Brief details of your current or most recent post and the dates you occupied this role. Please identify any past or present Ministerial appointments.

Monitoring form

Please complete the Monitoring form. As noted in the form, the diversity data you provide will not be seen by the Advisory Assessment Panel assessing your application.

The political activity information you provide is primarily for monitoring purposes only, however if you are shortlisted for interview, this information will be shared with the panel. The reason for this is that it is appreciated that such activities may have given you relevant skills, including experience gained from committee work, collective decision-making, resolving conflict and public speaking. If you have had such experience and you consider it relevant to your application for this post, you should also take the opportunity to include it separately in your supporting statement. If possible, you should not, however, identify the relevant political party in your statement.

If you are appointed to this role, please note that any political activity you declare will be published in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Disability Confident Scheme

The Department of Health and Social Care values and promotes diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity for all and to the appointment of disabled people. As part of the Disability Confident Scheme (DCS), we guarantee an interview to anyone with a disability who applies under the Scheme and whose application meets the essential criteria for the post.

What do we mean by a disability?

To be eligible for the Disability Confident Scheme you must have a disability or long-term health condition, which could be physical, sensory or mental and must be expected to last for at least 12 months. You do not have to be registered as a disabled person to apply under this scheme.

If you wish to apply under the DCS please complete Section E of the Monitoring form and return it with your application.

All applications will be acknowledged by email after the closing date.

Contacts

For further information regarding **the role of the CHM and the role of a Commissioner** please contact CHM Appointments Team:

Tel: 020 3080 6060

Email: ECS.Appointments@mhra.gov.uk

For further information regarding **the selection process**, please contact:

Qasher Mahmood

Public Appointments Team

Tel: 02079 723085

Email: Qasher.Mahmood@dhsc.gov.uk

Please quote reference **VAC-1745** on all correspondence.

If you choose to apply, we would like to thank you in advance for your time and effort in making an application.

2.2 The Selection Process

The Department of Health and Social Care Public Appointments Team will advise you of the likely timetable at each stage.

Timetable:

- Closing date: Midday on Thursday, 11 November 2021
- Shortlisting: 3rd December, 2021
- Interviews: January 2022 TBC

Advisory Assessment Panel:

- Stephen Lightfoot: Chair of MHRA and panel chair
- Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed, Chair of CHM
- Rima Makarem as independent panel member.

The Independent Panel Member is independent of both the Department of Health and Social Care and CHM.

The Governance Code on Public Appointments requires all Advisory Assessment Panel members to declare any political activity within the last five years. All panel members have declared that they have not taken part in any political activity within the last five years.

After the closing date for applications:

- The Department of Health and Social Care will commission a pre-assessment of candidate applications which will then be provided to the Panel for consideration and to inform the shortlisting process. By applying, you are agreeing to your application being shared with another party for pre-assessment. The pre-assessor and the panel are reliant on the information you provide in your CV and supporting letter to assess whether you have the skills and experience required. Please ensure that you provide evidence to support how you meet all the essential criteria. It is the responsibility of the panel to determine who it believes best meet the criteria for the role, and who will be invited to interview.
- Interviews will be held in January 2022. The Appointments Team will email to let you know whether you have been invited to be interviewed. Interviews are likely to be conducted by video/ teleconference but if not, would be in central London.

- The Advisory Assessment Panel will select for interview only the strongest applicants who it feels have demonstrated that they best meet the criteria set out in the person specification. However, if you have applied under the DCS and you meet all the essential criteria, then you will also be invited for interview.
- If you are invited to interview and if you are unable to attend on the set date, then an alternative date can only be offered at the discretion of the Advisory Assessment Panel.
- If invited to interview, the Advisory Assessment Panel may invite you to make a brief presentation at the start of the interview and will go on to question you about your skills and experience, including asking specific questions to assess whether you meet the criteria set out for the post.
- The Advisory Assessment Panel will also explore with candidates any potential conflicts of interest or any other issues arising from candidate's personal and professional history which may impact on an appointment decision (see section 2.1 for further details).
- Candidates who the panel believe are 'appointable', will be recommended to Ministers who will make the final decision. Ministers may choose to meet with candidates, before or after interview, and before making a decision. Candidates should therefore be prepared for a delay between interview and a final appointment decision being made. Candidates who have been interviewed will be kept informed of progress.
- If you are successful, you will receive a letter from Ministers appointing you as a Commissioner of the Commission on Human Medicines which will confirm the terms on which the appointment is offered.
- **Please note that due to the volume of applications that are received it is not possible to routinely provide feedback to those not shortlisted for interview.**
- If you apply under the Disability Confident Scheme and you are not shortlisted for interview, we can provide a summary of the assessment of your written application, if you choose to request feedback
- If you are unsuccessful at interview, you will be notified by the Public Appointments Team. We appreciate it takes a lot of time and effort to apply for roles, and prepare for and attend an interview, and that feedback is a valuable part of the process. Following interviews, the letter which confirms the outcome of the appointment process will provide the details of who you may approach for feedback on your interview and application, if you so wish
- For further information on how we will manage the personal information that you have provided to us through your application, see **Section 2.4**

Queries

For queries about your application, please contact Qasher Mahmood on Qasher.Mahmood@dhsc.gov.uk

Standards in public life

You will be expected to demonstrate high standards of corporate and personal conduct. All successful candidates will be asked to subscribe to the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies, you can access this document at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/board-members-of-public-bodies-code-of-conduct>

Diversity and equality of opportunity

The Department of Health and Social Care values and promotes diversity and encourage applications from all sections of the community.

Governance Code on Public Appointments

The Governance Code on Public Appointments, published by the Cabinet Office, sets out the principles that should underpin all public appointments. The Governance Code can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-code-for-public-appointments>

The Commissioner for Public Appointments

The regulation of public appointments against the requirements of the Governance Code is carried out by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Commissioner provides independent assurance that public appointments are made in accordance with the principles set out in the Code. The Commissioner is appointed by the Queen and is independent of the Government and the Civil Service. Further information about the role of the Commissioner is available from:

<http://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk>

If you are not completely satisfied

The Department of Health and Social Care will aim to process all applications as quickly as possible and to treat all applicants with courtesy. If you have any complaints about the way

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your application has been handled, please contact Qasher Mahmood in the Department of Health and Social Care by emailing Qasher.Mahmood@dhsc.gov.uk

If after receiving a comprehensive response from the Department you are still concerned, you can write to the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Please contact:

The Commissioner for Public Appointments

1 Horse Guards Road

London SW1A 2HQ

Tel: 0207 271 8938

Email: publicappointments@csc.gov.uk

2.3 Eligibility Criteria

There are circumstances in which an individual may not be considered for appointment. They include:

1. persons who have received a prison sentence or suspended sentence of 3 months or more in the last 5 years
2. persons who are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order, or a debt relief order or interim debt relief order under Schedule 4ZB to the Insolvency Act 1986
3. persons who have had an earlier term of appointment with a health service body terminated on the grounds:
 - that it was not conducive to the interests or good management of the body that the person should continue to hold office
 - that the person failed to attend a meeting of the body on three consecutive occasions
 - that the person failed to declare a pecuniary interest or withdraw from consideration of a matter in respect of which the person had a pecuniary interest
 - of misconduct or failure to carry out the person's duties
4. anyone who is under a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986; or
5. anyone who has been removed from trusteeship of a charity.

Further advice about the eligibility criteria can be provided by contacting CHM Appointments Team on 020 3080 6060

2.4 How we will manage your personal information

Your personal information will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. You will not receive unsolicited paper or electronic mail because of sending the Department of Health and Social Care any personal information. No personal information will be passed on to third parties for commercial purposes.

When we ask you for personal information, we promise we will:

- Only ask for what we need, and not collect too much or irrelevant information
- Ensure you know why we need it
- Protect it and insofar as is possible, make sure nobody has access to it who shouldn't
- Ensure you know what choice you have about giving us information
- Make sure we don't keep it longer than necessary
- Only use your information for the purposes you have authorised

We ask that you:

- Provide us with accurate information
- Inform us as soon as possible of any changes or if you notice mistakes in the information we hold about you

If you apply for a post, we will share some of the information you provide with the members of the Advisory Assessment Panel for the post to which you are applying, so that your CV and supporting letter can be assessed.

The diversity information you provide will not be used in the selection process and will therefore not be shared with the Advisory Assessment Panel assessing your application at any stage. However, panels may review the political activity response at the interview stage. This in no way acts as a bar to appointment. Further information on this is provided in the attached Monitoring form.

The Commissioner for Public Appointments regulates and monitors appointments to public bodies to ensure procedures are fair. The Department of Health and Social Care is required by the Commissioner for Public Appointments to retain information about the people who apply for public appointments within his remit and make this information available to him for audit purposes, if requested to do so. Information you provide in your application may therefore be made available to the Commissioner for Public Appointments and the

Commissioner's auditors on a confidential basis to help fulfil either the Commissioner's formal complaints investigation role or for audit purposes.

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