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4, Winsley Street  
London  
W1W 8HF

11 December 2015

Sir Nicholas Macpherson  
Permanent Secretary  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Sir Nicholas,

**Press Recognition Panel – Accounting Officer appointment**

I am writing in respect of your letter dated 14 November 2014 which confirmed my appointment as Accounting Officer of the Press Recognition Panel (PRP), and also confirmed arrangements for the transfer of Exchequer grant monies to the PRP.

As you may be aware, the PRP has now received the full sum of £3m intended to cover funding for the PRP's first three years of operation. The PRP received £0.05m in October 2014, £0.85m in November 2014, and in July 2015, a further £2.1m was received. The whole grant of £3m was paid up front, and has been recognised in full in the 2014/15 period, on the basis that annual funding agreements could have been seen to have impinged on the PRP's independence. You will find further details in our Annual Report and Accounts for the period 3 November 2014 to 31 March 2015, which was laid before Parliament and published on 26 November 2015:

<http://pressrecognitionpanel.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/PRP-2014-15-Annual-Report-FINAL2.pdf>

At the end of January 2015, the Board appointed Susie Uppal to the role of Executive Director, and from that date, we began establishing and embedding systems and processes in order to become a fully functioning organisation.

We now have a full governance structure in place, including a scheme of delegations and a finance policy. All of our policies are available to view on our website.

While I acknowledge that it was right and proper for me to be appointed to the role of Accounting Officer in 2014, my view and the PRP Board's is that there is now a strong case for delegating the appointment of the Accounting Officer role to the Executive Director, on the basis that - in line with robust segregation of financial responsibilities - Susie has day-to-day responsibility for the PRP's finances and expenditure. My role and that of the PRP Board's is to hold the executive to account; we scrutinise the management accounts on a monthly basis (the relevant Board papers are available to view on our website), and in that context it feels appropriate for the role to rest with the Executive Director.

It is my view and that of the PRP Board's that the time is right for me to delegate the Accounting Officer responsibility to the PRP's Executive Director. Ideally, this would be retrospective, taking effect from the start of the current financial year i.e. 1 April 2015. We consider that this would be beneficial and we would like HM Treasury's view.

I would be happy to provide you with any further information or any clarification that you may require in relation to this matter and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wolfe', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Dr David Wolfe QC

**Press Recognition Panel**

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