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Dr David Wolfe
Chair of the Press Recognition Panel
Press Recognition Panel
107-111 Fleet Street
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16 February 2016

Dear Dr Wolfe,

PRESS RECOGNITION PANEL – ACCOUNTING OFFICER APPOINTMENT

I am writing in response to your letter of 11 December 2015, which set out the case for transferring Accounting Officer responsibilities for the Press Recognition Panel from you, as Chair, to the Executive Director. You have sought a Treasury view.

I can confirm that it would be consistent with the principles of Managing Public Money to transfer Accounting Officer responsibilities to the Executive Director. She would then be responsible for meeting the requirements of Managing Public Money in so far as they relate to the Press Recognition Panel's use of the temporary Exchequer grant. The role of Accounting Officer would cease after the initial period covered by the Exchequer grant.

If you decide to proceed, I stand ready to write to the Executive Director confirming her appointment. Accounting Officer responsibilities for the Press Recognition Panel would formally transfer from that point.

Managing Public Money requires that accountability for specific decisions taken in-year must rest with the Accounting Officer in position at the time. This means that you would retain accountability for all decisions taken prior to the transfer. It would fall to the new Accounting Officer to sign off this year's Annual Report



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and Accounts. You may wish to consider signing these off jointly, given your personal accountability for the majority of the year, however there is no obligation that you do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N I Macpherson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

N I Macpherson