

Enquiries to:

Tower Hamlets Commissioners
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To Mayor and Council of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets

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17 August 2015

Appointment of Chief Executive and Statutory Head of Paid Service
Designation of Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for Local Elections

The Secretary of State has issued Directions under Section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1999 to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The Directions issued on 17th December 2014 Annex B empowered the Commissioners to remove and appoint a person to the statutory offices of Electoral Registration Officer (Section 8(2) Representation of the People Act 1983) and Returning Officer for Local Elections (S35(3) RPA 1983).

The Directions issued on 29th April 2015 required the authority to define and establish a new senior officer position, the holder of which is to be designated Head of Paid Service (Section 4(1) Local Government and Housing Act 1989), have direct or indirect line management responsibility for all the Authority's staff except defined political assistants and undertake an open recruitment exercise to make a suitable permanent appointment to this position within 3 months of establishment under the direction of and to the satisfaction of the Commissioners.

The Council's Human Resources Committee on 28th May established the post of Chief Executive with a Job Description which satisfied Commissioners that it complied with the first part of the April Direction. I am writing on behalf of the Commissioners to record that, subject to full Council agreeing the unanimous recommendation of the Appointments Sub-Committee held on 12th August 2015 and Mr William Tuckley accepting the offer of employment, that the process and the outcome was carried out under the direction of and to the satisfaction of the Commissioners and that this element of the Direction can be considered to be discharged. In due course, the Executive Mayor will need to consider what delegated authority should be conferred to the Chief Executive and that will complete compliance with the Direction. It would not be normal to formally do this until a post holder was in place.

On the day that Mr Tuckley takes up paid employment with the Council, Mr John Williams will cease to be designated as Electoral Registration Officer and Local Returning Officer and Mr Tuckley will be appointed in his place. This designation will discharge that element of the December Directions.

The Commissioners look forward to working with the Mayor, Council and their newly appointed Chief Executive to secure the discharge of the other Directions and London Borough of Tower Hamlets taking its proper place in the mainstream

Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM | Max Caller CBE | Chris Allison CBE | Alan Wood CBE

effective and lawful local government as soon as compliance with the action plans associated with the Directions can be substantiated and we wish Mr Tuckley every success for the future.

We would also like to place on record the efforts of Mr Williams and his team to secure as far as possible a fair and lawful election process in both elections in 2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Caller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Max Caller CBE
on behalf of the Commissioners

cc Mr Will Tuckley;
Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government