

Sir Gus O'Donnell
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2 AS

05.07.11.

Dear Gus,

I am writing to tell you that I have decided to withdraw from the appointment process for the Chair of UK Statistics Authority. I was honoured to be put forward as the Government's preferred candidate for this important role. However, in my discussions with the Public Administration Select Committee it became clear that the Committee and I have differing views about how the job should be undertaken, and in particular how the independence of the Chair should be exercised.

Given this clear difference of view of the role of the Chair of UK Statistics Authority, I believe it would be difficult for me to do the job in the manner which I had intended. I have therefore reluctantly taken the decision that my name should go no further in this process.

Yours,

Janet Finch

Dame Janet Finch DBE