

8 May 2017

Patricia Hodgson  
Chairman

Secretary of State for Culture  
Media & Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
Westminster  
London  
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*Dear Secretary of State,*

I write to give due notice of my intention to retire as Chair of Ofcom at the end of December. This is three months early but a necessary fit with other Board renewals and replacements which all fall due next Spring. I am sorry the timetable requires me to write during election purdah but the matter has been discussed with officials.

When I was appointed I told the Select Committee at the confirmation hearing that I agreed with my predecessor that regulatory Chairs should serve for one term only. It is the best guarantee for both government and the sector of independent decision making. John Whittingdale, the former Secretary of State, asked me to accept a short extension in the context of Ofcom taking on new BBC responsibilities. The timetable for implementing the new Charter & Agreement ran past the end of my term and I felt a responsibility to agree. The Ofcom framework has now been in place since 3<sup>rd</sup> April, when the Charter went live, and will bed down during this year.

I also look forward, before the end of the year, to important steps in implementing key recommendations in Ofcom's Digital Communications Strategy, including improved consumer protection, progress on opening up BT's ducts and poles to competitors and the agreed new structure for Openreach, which facilitates competition and more investment in fibre broadband.

It has been a busy and productive few years and a privilege to lead the Board during such a period of change. The Board is strong; we have an outstanding Chief Executive and this timing is a necessary fit with other non-executive terms and renewals, which would otherwise coincide. It will, therefore, ensure Ofcom is best placed to deliver its responsibilities going forward with continuing success.

May I say how much I have appreciated my five years at Ofcom and the opportunity to work with Ministers and officials.

Kind regards

Patricia Hodgson

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