



Home Office

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Appointment of the next Metropolitan Police Commissioner

As you know, I have today received with regret Sir Ian Blair's decision that he will resign as Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

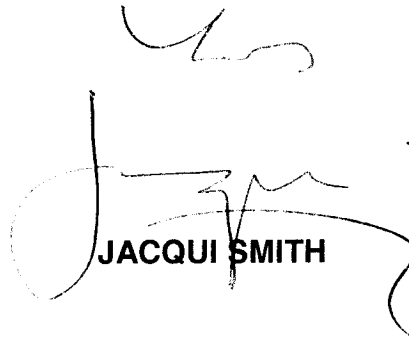
I am now putting in motion the process through which, as required by the Police Act 1996, I will recommend a new permanent appointment to Her Majesty. The Act provides that before recommending to Her Majesty that She appoint a person as Commissioner, I shall have regard to any recommendations made to me by the Metropolitan Police Authority and to any representations made to me by you personally as Mayor.

The office of Commissioner is an indispensable part of the good policing of London and of maintaining the national security of the country as a whole. I am sure we both agree that we need a process which will enable me to recommend the best person on merit for the office, having had regard to your and the Authority's views.

Accordingly, we need to invite applications from suitably qualified candidates. I would like the MPA to join with the Home Office in issuing this invitation. Once applications have been received, the Home Office Permanent Secretary will lead a panel containing, I suggest, two MPA members which would then sift the applications and interview a short list. I am sure you and MPA members will then want to meet qualified candidates in order to form MPA views, and to enable you to make your own personal representation to me. I

would then interview one or more of the candidates before making my recommendation to Her Majesty.

My officials will be in touch with yours to set the process in motion.



JACQUI SMITH