

**The Rt Hon Baroness Gisela Stuart of Edgbaston
First Civil Service Commissioner**

G/08, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ
E-Mail first.commissioner@csc.gov.uk



The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Leader of HM Official Opposition
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

23 February 2026

Dear Kemi,

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2026.

As you will be aware, Dame Antonia Romeo was appointed as Cabinet Secretary on 19 February 2026.

In line with the requirement in the Cabinet Manual that the Cabinet Secretary is 'appointed on the advice of the retiring Cabinet Secretary and the First Civil Service Commissioner', I agreed the process used to make this appointment.

Dame Antonia Romeo has an excellent track record in leadership positions across the civil service, including in three Permanent Secretary roles in some of the most complex operational departments in Government.

I also approved the comprehensive due diligence process conducted by the Cabinet Office and agreed the conclusions drawn, to form the basis for the Prime Minister to make an appointment decision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gisela Stuart'.

Gisela Stuart
First Civil Service Commissioner