House of Commons: Written Statement (HCWS507)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Written Statement made by: **Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Lisa Nandy)** on 26 Nov 2026.

Launch of the Independent Review of Culture, Accountability and Governance at the Information Commission

Today I am announcing the launch of an independent review of culture, accountability and governance at the Information Commission.

Following concerns raised about the conduct of the former Information Commissioner, the Information Commissioner's Office commissioned an independent investigation in February 2026, which concluded in June. That investigation upheld multiple allegations against the former Commissioner and he subsequently resigned. That investigation considered the conduct of one individual but did not examine the wider organisational conditions in which the relevant events occurred. This review has therefore been established to consider those wider conditions and identify any lessons for the future. I would like to thank the former Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, my Rt Hon Friend the Member for Leicester West, Liz Kendall, for initiating this review.

I have appointed Karon Monaghan KC to lead the review, as the independent Reviewer. As a leading employment and equality law barrister, Karon is exceptionally well placed to lead this work. She will conduct the review independently of both the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Information Commission, and prepare a report which will set out her findings and recommendations. I have every confidence she will conduct the review with the independence and rigour it demands.

The review comes at an important moment for the organisation, following the governance transition to the new Information Commission and the appointment of a new Board at the end of September.

The review will provide the Department and the Information Commission Board with an independent assessment of the organisation's culture, accountability and governance arrangements, including the relationship between the Commission and DCMS, as its sponsoring department.

In particular, the review will examine cultural conditions and behavioural norms; how concerns are raised, heard, assessed and acted on; how accountability, leadership and governance arrangements operate in practice; and whether lessons can be learned from the sponsorship relationship between the Information Commission and the Department, while respecting the regulator's independence. It will identify what should be strengthened and what should be reset, with practical, proportionate and prioritised recommendations.

I want to be clear that the review is intended to support organisational learning and improvement.

It will not reopen or reinvestigate the findings of the independent investigation into the previous Information Commissioner, nor will it make findings about the conduct or performance of named individuals.

It is critically important that both current and former staff are able to contribute to the review with confidence and speak openly about their experiences, knowing that those experiences will be taken seriously. Participation will be voluntary, and the Reviewer will determine how best to engage participants.

The review is expected to report in the first quarter of 2027. I will ensure that its final report is made available to Parliament at the earliest opportunity. The report and its recommendations will also be made publicly available.

The Terms of Reference for the review, developed in consultation with the Information Commission, will be published today.