Circular Letter No.27/2019

2 September 2019

Your Excellency,

The Commonwealth of Learning was established by Heads of Government in Vancouver in 1987 as an inter-governmental organisation to promote distance education and open learning in the Commonwealth. Since 1 July 2014 its Board of Governors has been chaired by the Dr Linda Sissons, whose second and final term concludes on 30 June 2020. It is now my responsibility to consult Commonwealth Heads of Government as to a suitable successor.

Dr Sissons was well qualified for this role, with a career that has included senior management positions in universities, institutes of technology and polytechnics in New Zealand and the United Kingdom, serving as Director of WorldSkills New Zealand and a board member of the Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation, and as a member of government commissions in New Zealand on Tertiary Education and Learning for Life.

The post of Chair of the Board of Governors is voluntary, and is ideally occupied by a person of international standing able to provide leadership for COL by contributing innovative thinking, and by working with member governments and other stakeholders and potential partners. Nominees should have advocacy and networking skills, and experience of international affairs. They should also have an interest in Information and Communication Technologies, and the development of Open and Distance Learning. I enclose a copy of Section 4 of the COL Governance Manual which sets out detail the role and responsibilities of the Chair of the COL.

Nominations for the three-year term commencing 1 July 2020, with the possibility of a single further term of three years, should kindly be conveyed to me (with full curriculum vitae) by 31 January 2020. I will then consult with the COL Board of Governors and prepare a shortlist for circulation so that any Commonwealth Head of Government who wishes to do so may express a view to me before a final conclusion is reached.

With all good wishes,

Patricia Scotland QC

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC

Commonwealth Heads of Government

Encl:
- COL Governance Manual - Section 4