

## UNIVERSITY OF YORK

### SENIOR INDEPENDENT LAY MEMBER of COUNCIL

The primary purpose of the role of Senior Independent Lay Member of Council is:

- 1) To support the Chair of Council, acting as a source of confidential and trusted advice on any matter related to the corporate governance of the University;
- 2) To oversee an annual process of evaluation of the performance of the Chair of the Council in which all Council members will be invited to participate. In order to ensure join-up, the exercise, whilst separate, will coincide with wider annual evaluation of Council effectiveness and members' own evaluation discussions with the Chair;
- 3) To provide a route for the raising of material concerns by members of the Council, where such matters are unable to be resolved through the channels of Chair, Registrar and Secretary, such as: [a] instances where a conflict of interest has arisen, or this risks being the case, or [b] a significant matter is judged to have not been adequately addressed or responded to, based on a sustained period of discussion through the routes identified above, and where Council has not already taken, or is planning a decision on such matter.

Other than the distinct duties identified above, the Senior Independent Lay Member of Council has the same accountabilities and responsibilities as other members of Council, including their status as a trustee of the University as an exempt charity.

#### **Appointment process and related constitutional matters**

The Senior Independent Lay Member is appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Appointments Committee, for a period co-terminous with their appointment as a lay member of Council, thereby not exceeding a period of three years. The normal provisions in relation to early resignation, removal and reappointment of lay members apply, as set out in Statute 23.

The role-holder may concurrently hold another role on Council such as the Treasurer and/or as a Pro-Chancellor.

July 2019