

Public Question Time

Question submitted by Nick South

The Department of Environment National Parks Circular (12/96) extant back in 2008 while covering the National Parks did not extend to the Broads Authority.

The Department has since redressed the situation by replacing Department of Environment Circular 12/96 with English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision Circular 2010. The result is that since March 2010 any application for a Secretary of State member vacancy from a serving councillor of a local authority appointing members to the Broads Authority is ineligible.

A letter distributed by Natural England for applicants reads, "National Park Authorities Secretary of State Members are initially appointed for a 4-year term...and are eligible for re-appointment. However reappointment is not automatic."

The rules for eligibility of BA members are therefore clear and, since 2010, are identical to those that apply to national park members. Will the Authority explain how an ineligible individual whose appointment breaches the same rules would be allowed to remain a member?

The Authority's response will be reported at the meeting and read out by the Chairman.