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Helen Grant MP: 'Transparency over Channel 4's board appointments vital in the equality agenda'.

London, 1st December 2016; Helen Grant said 'I speak as a former Minister for Women and Equalities, a former Minister at DCMS, an active campaigner for diversity in broadcasting and as the Conservatives first (and still their only) Anglo-African female MP'.

'I am perplexed and concerned that the Secretary of State has blocked the appointment of a BAME woman to the board of Channel 4 this week'.

'This is despite OFCOM Chair Dame Patricia Hodgson's submission to the CMS Select Committee last month that the candidates they have put forward were 'an outstanding range of recommendations'.

'The Government's green paper published this week sets out a plan to introduce greater diversity on boards,

the Parker Review, published last month, calls for one in five new board appointees to be persons of colour by 2021,

and I know how strongly Channel 4 are behind the diversity agenda from my personal dealings with those at the very top of the organisation'.

'We need a media representative of our country. A media who understand the issues facing all communities within our country.

It is therefore vital that Karen Bradley explains reasoning behind her decision as it goes to the heart of this government's true commitment to diversity, equality and transparency'.

ENDS