

New Barclays boss to be grilled by MPs over his links to Andrew's paedophile pal after convicted sex offender backed him for the job in 2012

- **Jes Staley apparently chosen to replace ousted CEO Antony Jenkins**
- **But he was secretly backed for job three years ago by Jeffery Epstein**
- **Duke of York's friend and disgraced financier was imprisoned in 2008**
- **Mr Staley now set to be hauled in front of Treasury Select Committee**

By [Hugo Duncan](#), Economics Correspondent for the Daily Mail

Published: 00:29, 26 October 2015 | Updated: 00:46, 26 October 2015

The new boss of Barclays faces a grilling from MPs over his links to a notorious paedophile friend of Prince Andrew.

Jes Staley, a hedge fund manager and former high-flyer at Wall Street giant JPMorgan, is understood to have been chosen as the man to replace ousted Barclays chief executive Antony Jenkins.

But yesterday it emerged that the American was secretly backed for the job in 2012 by convicted sex offender Jeffery Epstein – a friend of the Duke of York who was sentenced to more than a year behind bars in 2008.

Mr Staley now looks set to be hauled in front of the powerful Treasury Select Committee where MPs will quiz him over his plans for Barclays – and his association with disgraced financier Mr Epstein.

Mr Staley denies ever asking Mr Epstein act as his cheerleader for any job and Barclays also said its board was not lobbied by Mr Epstein.

It is thought Mr Epstein was acting on his own initiative.

But one member of the Treasury Select Committee said MPs will want 'clear answers' from Mr Staley over his links with Mr Epstein.

Another said 'it is the sort of thing' that MPs will want to know about if Mr Staley is confirmed as the new Barclays boss.

Barclays has yet to officially announce that Mr Staley has got the job but the appointment is an open secret in the City.

The [Mail on Sunday claimed that Mr Epstein](#) – who was convicted in 2008 after paying a teenage girl for sex – began pushing Mr Staley forward for the Barclays job in 2012.

The pair are said to have met in Mr Epstein's plush New York home that year.

It followed the departure of then Barclays chief executive Bob Diamond, the high-flying investment banker who took over in 2010 but left under a cloud following the Libor-fixing scandal.

Mr Epstein, who made a fortune from his investment firm J Epstein & Co, was said to have been furious when Mr Staley was overlooked for the job.

The report claimed he described Mr Jenkins, who was then head of the retail division at Barclays, as an 'internal dweeb'.

It was also claimed that George Osborne was blocking Mr Staley's move to Barclays in 2012 and Mr Epstein wanted the get the Chancellor to change his mind.

The Treasury and Bank of England were said to be uncomfortable with another 'casino' banker taking the reins at Barclays following the departure of Mr Diamond.

But Mr Staley looks set to be named chief executive this time around following gruelling interviews with top UK regulators.

Former Barclays chairman Sir David Walker – who was also seen as an obstacle to Mr Staley getting the job in 2012 – has left.

MPs on the Treasury Select Committee have already said they plan to haul Mr Staley before them amid worries the appointment may herald a return to the aggressive culture and focus on investment banking fostered by Mr Diamond.

Last night they said they would also quiz Mr Staley about Mr Epstein.

Labour MP John Mann, a member of the committee, said: 'I'm sure the committee will want him in front of it. I'm sure he would be asked about it. It requires some clear answers.'

Tory MP Mark Garnier, who also sits on the committee, said 'it is the sort of thing' MPs will pick up on when Mr Staley appears before them.

He said MPs will want to know if Mr Staley is 'the right man for the job' and added that 'a small part of that is the company he keeps'.

But Mr Garnier said of greater concern were his plans for the bank.

'You are going back to an investment banker and a hedge fund manager,' he said. 'What does he know about the individuals on the street and the retail customers? That is one of the big question we would want to ask.'

A spokesman for Mr Staley said: 'At no time has Mr Staley asked Mr Epstein to make representations on his behalf regarding any role.'

A Barclays spokesman said: 'Barclays categorically denies it has received any approach from Mr Epstein regarding any candidate for the vacant [chief executive] role.'