

Parliamentary Bureau – Scottish Commission for Public Audit

Nomination for membership

Introduction

1. This paper invites the Parliamentary Bureau to timetable a motion by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) inviting the Parliament to approve the appointment of Jamie Greene MSP to the Scottish Commission for Public Audit.
2. A vacancy on the Commission has arisen as a consequence of the resignation of Sharon Dowey MSP. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party has nominated Jamie Greene MSP to replace Ms Dowey. The Bureau may wish to note that this will result in an all-male membership of the SCPA.

Background

3. The Scottish Commission for Public Audit (“the Commission”) was established by the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 (“the Act”). The Commission consists of five Members of the Parliament. The Convener of the Public Audit Committee is an ex officio member in accordance with Section 12(2)(a) of the Act and the four other members are appointed by the SPCB in accordance with Standing Orders (Rule 3.13 - reproduced at Annexe A). The SPCB is required to seek the agreement of the Parliament by way of a motion to appoint members to serve on the Commission.
4. The Commission’s principal functions are to examine the proposed budget of Audit Scotland and report to the Parliament as part of the annual budget process, to consider Audit Scotland’s annual report and accounts and to appoint 3 non-executive members of Audit Scotland, including its Chair.

Conclusion

5. Maggie Chapman will lodge a motion on behalf of the SPCB. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to agree to the motion being timetabled for debate ideally during the week commencing 13 May 2024. Should the motion be agreed to by the Parliament, a letter of appointment will be issued by the Presiding Officer (as chair of the SPCB).

Parliamentary Business Team
May 2024

Rule 3.13 Appointment of members of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit

1. The four members of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit (“the Commission”) referred to in section 12(2)(b) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 shall be appointed by the Parliamentary corporation.
2. The Parliamentary corporation shall not make any appointment under this Rule without the agreement of the Parliament.
3. A member of the Parliamentary corporation shall by motion seek the agreement of the Parliament to the Parliamentary corporation’s proposal to appoint either—
(a) an individual member to be a member of the Commission; or (b) a group of 2 or more members to be members of the Commission.
4. In making a proposal under this Rule the Parliamentary corporation shall have regard to the balance of political parties in the Parliament.
5. Before the Presiding Officer puts to the Parliament the question on a motion relating to a group of members, the motion may be amended but only to delete that part of the motion relating to a particular member or members.