

SPICe Briefing

Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

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Over the last 10 years the Scottish Parliament has set up six offices concerned with regulating and maintaining the standards of public service. These offices are: the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland; the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland; the Scottish Human Rights Commission; the Scottish Information Commissioner; the Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner; and the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

The Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill will establish a new standards body the Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. This body will takeover the functions of the Chief Investigating Officer, the Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland. One member of the new Commission will assume the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Investigating Officer and the Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, while another will take on the functions of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland.

The Bill will also extend the role of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman to take over the functions of the Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission and transfer the sponsorship of the Standards Commission for Scotland from Scottish Ministers to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill was introduced on 27 January 2010. This Committee Bill was the outcome of the deliberations of the Review of SPCB Supported Bodies (RSSB) Committee, established on 13 November 2008. The Committee reviewed the bodies supported by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) to determine whether alterations should be made to the terms and conditions of the officeholders and the structure of these bodies. As the result of an amendment to the Committee's remit, agreed on 25 March 2009, it also considered how any proposals for future arrangements, including the addition of any new functions, should be taken forward.

As set out in Standing Order rule 9.15, a report by a committee on a Committee Bill's general principles is not required. At Stage 1, therefore, a Committee Bill is not referred to a lead committee. However, the Finance Committee considers and reports on the Financial Memorandum in the usual way.

The Bill proposes the establishment of a new body, the Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. This new body will take over the functions of the Chief Investigating Officer and the Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner – which will be combined into the Public Standards Commissioner for Scotland – and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland – which will become the Public Appointments Commissioner for Scotland.

In addition, the Bill seeks to amend the legislation which established the other bodies supported by the SPCB, namely the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman; the Scottish Information Commissioner; the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland; and the Scottish Human Rights Commission. The amendments will bring the governance of these bodies into line with the new body.

The Bill also seeks to amend the legislation which established the Standards Commission for Scotland to provide governance arrangements and to transfer sponsorship of the Commission from Scottish Ministers to the SPCB.

The Bill proposes extending the role of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman to take over the functions of the Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission. In addition, the Bill seeks to introduce a few minor amendments to remove interpretive difficulties in the Acts which established the Ombudsman.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CESPLS	Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland
CIO	Chief Investigating Officer
CCYPS	Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland
OCPAS	Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland
SCPA	Scottish Commission for Public Audit
SHR	Scottish Housing Regulator
SHRC	Scottish Human Rights Commission
SIC	Scottish Information Commissioner
SPCB	Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body
SPCC	Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission
SPSO	Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

BACKGROUND

Between 2000 and 2006, the Scottish Parliament established six new offices supported by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB). These are: the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland (CCYPS); the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland (OCPAS); the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC); the Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC); the Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner (SPSC); and the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO).

Each body performs a distinct role, and each has its own advocacy, regulatory and investigatory functions. The SPCB has a statutory role to provide support to these bodies and officeholders, similar to its statutory role to provide the Parliament with the property, staff and services required to carry out its functions.

There are also bodies which perform similar types of duties but which report to Scottish Ministers. These are the Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission, which existed before the Parliament was established, and the Standards Commission for Scotland, which was established after the Parliament took up its powers.

Table 1: Legislation establishing the offices affected by the Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

Body	Legislation	Reports to
Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland	Commissioner for Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2003 asp 17	SPCB
Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland	Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 asp 4	SPCB
Scottish Human Rights Commission	Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006	SPCB
Scottish Information Commissioner	Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 asp 13	SPCB
Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner	Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner Act 2002 asp 16	SPCB
Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission	Not a statutory body. The office of the Scottish Prison Complaints Commissioner was established administratively in December 1994 in response to a review of prison complaints procedures by the Scottish Prison Service, commitments made in the Citizen's Charter and recommendations by the Woolfe Committee (following the Strangeways riots). The Commissioner receives an Instrument of Appointment which sets out the duties of the office.	Scottish Ministers
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman	Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 asp 11	SPCB
Standards Commission for Scotland	Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 7)	Scottish Ministers

PREVIOUS INQUIRIES AND REPORTS

Since 2005, concerns have been raised in the Scottish Parliament with regard to the 'piecemeal' manner in which the various bodies supported by the SPCB were established (Scottish Parliament Finance Committee 2006 para 8). The manner of establishment has led to potential

gaps in accountability and legislative ambiguities between the establishing Acts for the SPCB supported bodies. In light of such concerns, the SPCB initiated a review by Audit Scotland in 2005.

This review followed on from the SPCB's own work on how it should interact with the bodies it supports. For example, the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the SPCB, Public Services Ombudsman / Scottish Information Commissioner and the Finance Committee. This draft protocol deals with the annual budgeting process (Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body 2003). It was drawn up by Scottish Parliament officials and was considered and agreed by the SPCB in December 2003 and by the Finance Committee in January 2004 (Scottish Parliament Finance Committee 2004).

The Audit Scotland review was followed in 2006 by an inquiry by the Scottish Parliament Finance Committee into accountability and governance.

In addition, the Scottish Executive launched a consultation in 2006 on a 'National Strategy for Shared Services' (Scottish Executive 2006a), and set up an independent Review of Scrutiny of Public Services chaired by Professor Lorne Crerar.

Audit Scotland report

Following the publication of the Finance Committee report on the 2006-07 Budget, which noted "very serious concerns over potential gaps in accountability in respect of parliamentary commissioners and ombudsman" (Scottish Parliament Finance Committee 2005 para 112), the SPCB requested that Audit Scotland undertake a review of the opportunities for the SPSO and the four commissioners then in existence, to share services, including the associated issue of office location.

Audit Scotland also reviewed the processes for scrutinising the budgets of the SPSO and Commissioners, including an examination of the then existing lines of accountability and how they worked in practice. One of the findings made by Audit Scotland was that the existing lines of accountability for spending by the Ombudsman and Commissioners were not straightforward.

In its report, Audit Scotland included in its recommendations that:

- scrutiny of the costs of new bodies and scope for achieving efficiencies from shared common services should be an explicit and integral component of the scrutiny before establishing new bodies
- there should be an increased scrutiny role for the SPCB, while protecting the independence of the officeholders
- there should be consideration of the need to amend the legislation which created the existing bodies in order to implement these proposals
- a Memorandum of Understanding between the SPCB and the Ombudsman / Commissioners should be produced to reflect the changes to governance and accountability arrangements arising from the review.

Audit Scotland (2006)

Finance Committee

In March 2006, the Finance Committee launched an inquiry into Accountability and Governance. The remit of the inquiry was to:

- examine the growth in the number of independent, regulatory and investigatory bodies and the associated growth in funds allocated since devolution

- examine the adequacy of processes for setting and scrutinising the annual budgets of such bodies
- examine the appropriateness of existing lines of accountability and how this process works in practice
- identify whether there are any potential overlaps in remits and responsibilities of independent, regulatory and investigatory bodies and any financial implications of such overlaps.

In its report, published on 15 September 2006, the Committee included in its recommendations:

- that legislation for any future independent officers or bodies with some form of accountability to Parliament should provide powers of direction to the SPCB for budget setting. The Committee also recommended that the Acts which established existing commissioners and the ombudsman should be amended to include the same provisions.
- an endorsement of the proposal that Scottish parliamentary committees take evidence more regularly from the commissioners and the ombudsman and should establish memoranda of understanding with relevant commissioners / ombudsman to ensure evidence sessions on annual reports
- that no new officeholder should be proposed unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the function cannot be carried out by an existing body. Furthermore, if a new officeholder requires to be created, every effort should be made to pool existing resources instead of creating entire new offices to accompany new posts as standard
- that bodies with similar roles and responsibilities should be amalgamated wherever possible; the potential to pool the resources of existing bodies (such as sharing staff) should be considered wherever possible.

Scottish Parliament Finance Committee (2006) p. 48-52

The Session 2 Finance Committee legacy paper stated that:

The Committee suggests that its successor committee may wish to consider introducing a bill amending legislation which established parliamentary commissioners and ombudsman. The successor committee could also choose to scrutinise the work of the Executive in relation to shared services and remit overlaps.

Scottish Parliament Finance Committee (2007)

Crerar Review

In June 2006, the Scottish Executive announced an independent review to look at how improvements could be made in inspection, regulation, audit and complaints handling for public services in Scotland. The review, chaired by Professor Lorne Crerar, was expected to complement wider Executive initiatives to reform public services and ensure public money is used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Crerar Review, which reported in September 2007, made 40 recommendations. These included:

- Recommendation 1 which gave the following five guiding principles for external scrutiny: public focus, independence; proportionality; transparency and accountability (Crerar 2007 p 4).
- Recommendation 31 which asked that all reviews of specific inspection and regulatory functions should assess the scope for amalgamating bodies with common interests, reallocating responsibilities to one organisation where there are

unnecessary direct overlaps and opportunities to share resources (including staff) to deal with overlaps (Crerar 2007 para 10.15).

Sinclair Report

In response to the report of the Crerar Review, the Scottish Government set up five short-life action groups to take the proposals forward. One of the groups was the Fit-for-purpose Complaints System Action Group, chaired by Douglas Sinclair. The Group's report (Fit-for-purpose Complaints System Action Group 2008) is referred to as the 'Sinclair Report'.

The Action Group included in its recommendations that:

- the SPSO, working with scrutiny bodies and service providers, should improve the way in which the learning from complaints is used to drive improvement
- the number of stand-alone complaints handling bodies should be reduced, and functions should be transferred, where appropriate, to simplify the process and landscape for consumers.
- legislation should be introduced to allow changes to the complaints landscape and to allow better sharing (e.g. to allow the SPSO and complaints handling bodies to share headline information on cases under consideration)
- the Scottish Government should consider:
 - transferring to the SPSO the role currently performed by local authority Complaint Review Committees for social work
 - transferring to the SPSO the complaints function of Waterwatch Scotland
 - transferring to the SPSO the Prison Complaints Commissioner's functions, and pursuing opportunities to put the functions of the prison complaints regime on a statutory footing
 - the case for merging the Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland with the SPSO during the next Parliamentary session (2011-15)
- Scottish Government and Parliament should consider options for giving the SPSO authority and appropriate resources to develop and oversee complaints processes, and Government should consider introducing a general requirement on all public service providers to comply with approved complaints handling processes.

Review of SPCB Supported Bodies Committee (RSSB)

On 13 November 2008, the Scottish Parliament agreed to the establishment of the ad hoc Review of SPCB Supported Bodies (RSSB) Committee, to consider and report on whether alterations should be made to the terms and conditions of the parliamentary ombudsmen and commissioners and the structure of the bodies supported by the SPCB, to consider how any proposals should be taken forward – including by way of a Committee Bill – and to make recommendations accordingly. As the result of an amendment to the Committee's remit, agreed on 25 March 2009, it also considered how any proposals, including the addition of any new functions, for future arrangements should be taken forward. The RSSB Committee reported on 21 May 2009.

In terms of simplifying the SPCB supported body landscape, the RSSB Committee proposed to:

- create a Public Life and Appointments Commission, which would assume the functions of the current Chief Investigating Officer, the Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland
- transfer responsibility for overseeing the Standards Commission for Scotland from Ministers to the SPCB

- transfer the functions of the Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO).

The RSSB Committee's 43 recommendations included the following:

- Waterwatch Scotland should not be transferred as proposed by the Sinclair Report.
- no single rights body be created, so the CCYPS and the SHRC should remain separate with their existing structures
- the SIC should remain a standalone body
- the Standards Commission for Scotland should remain a standalone body.

The Committee proposed a Committee Bill to take forward 26 of its recommendations, including those proposing:

- a standardised length of appointments of a single term with an 8 year maximum
- the establishment of standardised grounds for removal of an officeholder
- the functions of the Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission be moved to SPSO and placed on a statutory footing
- the extension to other commissioners and the SPSO of all the Finance Committee recommendations on governance already applied to SHRC. In addition, that further powers should be given to the SPCB
- a separate Standards body (Public Life and Appointments Commission Scotland) should be created, bringing together the OCPAS, the Chief Investigating Officer and Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, with the SPCB becoming its sponsoring body.

The Scottish Parliament considered the Committee's report on 18 June 2009 and agreed to the proposal to implement the report's recommendations by way of a Committee Bill.

PUBLIC SERVICES REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL

Like the Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill, the Scottish Government's Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill is concerned with reducing the number of Scottish public bodies, in this case those supported by the Scottish Government.

The Government Bill was introduced on 28 May 2009 with the Finance Committee designated as the lead Committee. Given the wide-ranging scope of the Bill, three other committees were designated as secondary Committees: the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee, the Health and Sport Committee and the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.

The Bill proposes a duty on scrutiny bodies in Scotland to cooperate with each other and ensure appropriate "user focus". In addition, the Bill proposes:

- the establishment of Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland to take on most of the functions of the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (the Care Commission established in 2001) and the functions of the Social Work Inspection Agency (established in its current form in 2006)
- the creation of a new national health scrutiny body: Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- the transfer of the functions of the Deer Commission for Scotland to Scottish Natural Heritage, and dissolution of the Deer Commission
- implementing the recommendations in the Scottish Commission for Public Audit (SCPA) Review of the Corporate Governance of Audit Scotland.

The Finance Committee agreed the general principles of the Bill in its report published on 11 December 2009. It did, however, raise concerns about Part 2 of the Bill which contains two order-making powers:

- Section 10 allows Ministers to make any provision which would improve the exercise of public functions. This includes modifying, conferring, abolishing, transferring, or delegating any function. It also includes abolishing, creating, or amending the constitution of, public bodies.
- Section 13 allows Ministers to make any provision to reduce or remove 'burdens'. This can also include abolishing, conferring, transferring or delegating functions, or creating or abolishing a public body.

Schedule 3 of the Bill contains a list of bodies to which the powers in Part 2 apply. One of the main themes to arise from the Committee's evidence programme, and from the reports of the secondary committees, was concern over the potential impact on the independence of some of the bodies listed in Schedule 3. There was specific concern around three main groups of bodies: those accountable to the Parliament rather than Government; those that have a role in scrutinising the actions of Government; and those with a quasi-judicial function.

The Cabinet Secretary gave the Finance Committee a commitment to look again at the list of bodies in Schedule 3, and the Committee recommended that he bring forward proposals to address the concerns expressed in evidence to the Committee prior to the formal Stage 2 consideration.

Members of the Finance Committee have subsequently lodged amendments to remove the SPCB supported bodies from the Schedule 3 list.

Because the RSSB Committee recommended that the complaints function of Waterwatch should not be transferred to the SPSO – as had originally been proposed by the Sinclair Report, the Scottish Government chose to introduce amendments to the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill proposing the transfer to certain bodies of the functions of Waterwatch Scotland.

The Stage 1 debate on the Bill took place on 7 January 2010 and the Parliament agreed to the general principles of the Bill. The deadline for completion of Stage 2 of the Bill was 12 March 2010.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) BILL

The Scottish Government's Housing (Scotland) Bill, which was introduced on 13 January 2010, seeks to establish the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) as an independent regulator. The SHR's objectives would be to safeguard and promote the interests of people who are, or may become, homeless, tenants of social landlords or recipients of housing services provided by registered social landlords. The Bill does not give the SHR a complaint-handling function for dealing with individual grievances. This will remain the responsibility of the Scottish Public Sector Ombudsman.

This would appear to address the concerns raised by the SPSO in its submission to the RSSB Committee on its investigative powers with regard to registered social landlords. In recommendation 30 of the RSSB Committee report, the Committee had stated that looking at this issue was outside of its remit, and had suggested that the Scottish Government might like to consider it in its proposals in the then draft Housing (Scotland) Bill.

The Bill has been amended since the draft Bill was published to include provisions regarding information from tenants on significant performance failures (section 45). Section 45 was added to the Bill as a result of views expressed in the consultation by registered tenants organisations and tenants who suggested that the Bill should provide a means for concerns about a landlord's performance to be brought to the SHR.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONS AND COMMISSIONERS ETC. BILL

The Bill, which has three Parts and seven Schedules, with Schedule 1 further divided into four Parts, was introduced on 27 January 2010. Broadly, the different parts and schedules of the Bill are concerned with:

Part 1 (and Schedules 1, 2 and 3)	The Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland: The Public Standards Commissioner for Scotland and the Public Appointments Commissioner for Scotland
Part 2 (and Schedules 4, 5 and 6)	Amendments of Provisions Relating to Other Commissions and Officeholders
Part 3 (and Schedule 7)	General

The Bill provides a template for future legislation to establish new or proposed bodies to be supported by the SPCB, as recommended by the Finance Committee in its 2006 report (p.13). One such a proposed body is the Scottish Referendum Commission which is proposed in the Scottish Government's *Scotland's Future: Draft Referendum (Scotland) Bill Consultation Paper* (Scottish Government 2010).

Part 1: The Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland: The Public Standards Commissioner for Scotland and the Public Appointments Commissioner for Scotland

This part of the Bill will establish a new standards body to be known as the Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland (CESPLS) and will provide for its administration and functions. Created within this body are two Commissioner posts, the Public Standards Commissioner for Scotland and the Public Appointments Commissioner for Scotland. Their respective functions are detailed in this part of the Bill.

Part 1 will implement a number of the recommendations in the RSSB Committee report dealing with: the terms and conditions for officeholders (Scottish Parliament Review of SPCB Supported Bodies Committee 2009 recommendations 2; 5; 10 and 11); the SPCB proposals on the establishment of a separate Standards Body (recommendations 16; 18 and 20); the internal structure of the new body (recommendations 39 and 41).

The Committee's recommendations also reflected the recommendations in the Finance Committee report following its inquiry into Accountability and Governance. For example, the Finance Committee's recommendations on reporting to the SPCB were also taken up by the RSSB Committee and those recommendations have been included in the Bill. The Bill spells out in detail the information which has to be included in the annual, and other, reports of the CESPLS, and requires that they should be laid before Parliament within a specific timescale.

This part of the Bill will also give the SPCB increased responsibility for ensuring that the Commission complies with directions from the SPCB on the location of the Commission's office

and with any direction with regard to the sharing of resources – including premises and staff – with other officeholders.

Note that the name of the new Commission differs from the provisional name suggested in the RSSB Committee's recommendation 40 which was the Public Life and Appointments Commission Scotland.

Part 2: Amendments of Provisions Relating to Other Commissions and Officeholders

This part of the Bill introduces a number of schedules which contain amendments to the Acts which regulate other commissions and officeholders. It echoes the content of Part 1 of the Bill and aims to harmonise the terms and conditions of the members of the Standards Commission with the officeholders and members of other bodies currently supported by the SPCB.

Schedules 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Schedule 2 of the Bill will amend the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 to provide governance arrangements for the Standards Commission for Scotland. For example, at present the Act contains no provisions which require the Standards Commission to provide an annual report to either Scottish Ministers or the Scottish Parliament. This limits the lines of communication between the Commission and the Parliament and restricts scrutiny of the body's activities by the Parliament.

Following recommendation 16 of the RSSB Committee report, this Schedule also transfers responsibility for the Standards Commission from Scottish Ministers to the SPCB. It also brings the Standards Commission into line with the CESPLS with regard to terms and conditions of appointment and its relationship with the SPCB as its supporting body.

Schedule 3 of the Bill provides for the standardisation of the governance arrangements, and of the terms and conditions of appointment, of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman with the other officeholders and members of bodies already supported by the SPCB.

Other amendments in this Schedule make changes to improve the operation of the SPSO Act and to transfer the functions of the Scottish Prison Complaints Commission to the SPSO. These changes are in line with the RSSB Committee's recommendations and the recommendations in the Sinclair Report. This is the first time that the body dealing with prisoner complaints has been placed on a statutory footing as the Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission set up in 1994 was not a statutory body.

The amendments to the SPSO Act will mean that the SPSO, as set out in recommendations 24 and 25 of the RSSB Committee report, will now be able to decide to discontinue an investigation and, in such circumstances, will be able to decide whether or not to send a report to Scottish Ministers or to lay a copy of such a report before the Scottish Parliament. The amendments are intended to give the SPSO access to a wider range of outputs and options for reporting than the SPSO Act currently provides.

Schedules 4, 5 and 6 (introduced by Section 29 of Part 2 of the Bill) provide for the harmonisation of the governance arrangements, and the terms and conditions, of the SIC, CCYPS and the SHRC with the other officeholders and members of bodies supported by the SPCB.

Part 3: General

This Part of the Bill contains interpretation – the definition of the Acts named in the Bill – and commencement provisions.

Schedule 7

Section 31(6) of this Part introduces Schedule 7. Part 1 of the Schedule relates to the transfer of staff, property and liabilities from the existing bodies (the Chief Investigating Officer, Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland) to the new Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.

Part 2 of the Schedule deals with transitional and saving provisions. For example, it explains what the existing bodies still need to complete – by way of budget preparation and annual report laying – before the provision of this Bill can come into force. It also allows for continuity for the existing officeholders, and provides transitional provisions for the appointment of the officeholders, including ensuring that their terms of office do not exceed 8 years.

Financial Memorandum

The financial memorandum sets out the financial saving which the changes in the Bill should deliver, after the initial costs of transition to the new bodies.

Table 2: Budget and staffing information taken from the RSSB Committee report

Organisation	Budget	Staff
Chief Investigating Officer (CIO)	2007-08 £321,000	CIO works part time with a staff of 6 part time investigation officers and 4 full time administrative staff
Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland	2007-08 £1,321,000	CCYPS works full time with a staff of 14
Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland (OCPAS)	2008-09 £419,000	OCPAS works part time with a staff of 3 supporting her and 13 assessors
Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)	2009-10 £1,000,000	Chair is full time, plus 3 part-time members and a staff of 8 full time equivalents.
Scottish Information Commissioner (SIC)	2008-09 £1,535,000	SIC supported by 23 full time equivalent staff
Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner	Annual £90,000	No staff
Scottish Prisons Complaints Commission	2007-08 £137,000	3 staff
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO)	2008-09 £3.184m	SPSO supported by 46 full time equivalent staff
Standards Commission for Scotland	2007-08 £243,000	3 staff

Table 3: Budget and staffing information taken from the financial memorandum for the Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill

New organisation	Estimated Budget	Staff
Commission for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland	2011-12 £874,632 2012-13 £874,632	10 full time equivalent staff
Scotland's Commissioner For Children and Young People	2011-12 £1,350,139 2012-13 £1,350,139	No change planned in Bill
Scottish Human Rights Commission	2011-12 £1,000,000 2012-13 £1,000,000	No change planned in Bill
Scottish Information Commissioner	2011-12 £1,535,000 2012-13 £1,535,000	No change planned in Bill
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman	2011-12 £3,423,572 2012-13 £3,388,672	SPSO supported by 46 full time equivalent staff
Standards Commission for Scotland	2011-12 £289,138 2012-13 £289,138	No change planned in Bill

The overall figures provided in the financial memorandum predict a potential saving of £66,215 between the budgets for 2009-10 and 2012-13.

If the proposals in the Bill are accepted then the number of bodies supported by SPCB will decrease to 6 from the 8 which included 2 bodies which formerly reported to Scottish Ministers.

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