

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND - APPOINTMENT OF A NEW MEMBER

Purpose

1. This paper invites the Parliamentary Bureau to timetable a motion seeking the Parliament's agreement to the SPCB appointing Suzanne Vestri as a member of the Standards Commission for Scotland.

Timing

2. Time in the business programme is sought for a debate on this appointment ideally during the week beginning 17 or 24 January 2022.

Background

3. Under the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, members of the Standards Commission are appointed by the SPCB with the agreement of the Parliament. Standing Orders Rule 3A.1(1b) applies where the agreement of the Parliament has to be sought.
4. Three members of the SPCB – Claire Baker MSP, Maggie Chapman MSP and Christine Grahame MSP - sat as an appointment panel on 6 December 2021 and now seek the agreement of the Parliament to appoint Suzanne Vestri as a member of the Commission for a fixed term of 6 years.
5. Under Standing Orders Rule 3A.1(3) any debate on a motion seeking the Parliament's agreement to an appointment is restricted to 30 minutes with each speaker being restricted to no more than 5 minutes.

Conclusion

6. The motion seeking the Parliament's agreement to the appointment will be lodged by Claire Baker MSP.
7. The Bureau is invited to agree to the motion being laid for debate during January and if this is not possible, as soon as possible thereafter.

January 2022