

**PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU**

**COMMISSIONER FOR ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE IN SCOTLAND  
- APPOINTMENT OF A NEW COMMISSIONER**

**Purpose**

1. This paper invites the Parliamentary Bureau to timetable a motion seeking the Parliament's agreement to the appointment, by the SPCB, of Ian Bruce as the new Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. Mr Bruce has been the Acting Commissioner since 2021 when the previous commissioner went on extended leave.

**Timing**

2. Time in the business programme is sought for a debate on this appointment ideally during the week beginning 23 January 2023.

**Background**

3. Under the Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioner etc Act 2010, the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland is appointed by the SPCB with the agreement of the Parliament. Standing Orders Rule 3A.1(1a) applies where the agreement of the Parliament has to be sought.
4. The appointment is 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 Christine Grahame MSP.
7. The Bureau is invited to agree to the motion being laid for debate during the week beginning 23 January 2023 and if this is not possible, as soon as possible thereafter.

**Parliamentary Business Team  
January 2023**