

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND - APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW MEMBERS

Purpose

1. This paper invites the Parliamentary Bureau to timetable a motion seeking the Parliament's agreement to the SPCB appointing Helen Donaldson and Anne-Marie O'Hara as members 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 20 or 27 February 2023.

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. The SPCB sat as an appointment panel on 23 January 2023 and now need to seek the agreement of the Parliament to appoint Helen Donaldson and Anne-Marie O'Hara as members of the Standards Commission for Scotland 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 appointments will be lodged by Maggie Chapman MSP who chaired the SPCB panel.
7. The Bureau is invited to agree to the motion being laid for debate during February and if this is not possible, as soon as possible thereafter.

February 2023