

Petitioner submission of 20 February 2024

PE1964/L: Create an independent review of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

Accountability Scotland is grateful for the committee's consideration to date.

On 5 December 2023, the SPSO appeared before the Local Government, Planning and Housing Committee to take questions on its 2022/23 Annual Report. When asked about PE1964 and whether or not the SPSO should be subject to an independent review, Rosemary Agnew, the Ombudsman agreed that there should be one. The relevant section of the Official Report can be found here:

https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/LGHP-05-12-2023?meeting=15600&iob=133122#orscontributions_M16196E313P802C2542426

Given that the SPSO agrees that an independent review is required Accountability Scotland would now like to present in person to the committee its views on what such an independent review should consist of. We believe this is the next logical step and hope that the committee is in agreement with this.