Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy Kate Forbes MSP



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Claire Baker MSP Convener of the Economy and Fair Work Committee The Scottish Parliament Edinburah **EH99 1SP**

By email: Committee Clerk economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot

24 November 2021

Dear Claire,

I am pleased to inform the Committee that a new permanent Chief Executive has been appointed to Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

Following a full recruitment process, Stuart Black was successful at securing the role. Stuart is a highly skilled economic development professional with over 20 years' experience of working at senior manager and director level across the public sector in the Highlands and Islands. He is in a unique position to lead HIE and work with partners to deliver economic development across the Highlands and Islands region.

Carroll Buxton was appointed as interim Chief Executive of HIE and will remain in post until Stuart formally begins his role on 1 January 2022.

I am sure the Committee will agree that this is a positive step forward for HIE.

Yours sincerely,

KATE FORBES

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