



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Finance and Public Administration Committee

Karen Adam MSP  
Convener  
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

**5 February 2026**

Dear Karen

### Financial Memorandum for the Commissioner for Older People (Scotland) Bill

The Finance and Public Administration Committee (the Committee) is responsible for scrutinising Financial Memorandums (FMs) to Bills.

As such, the Committee ran a call for views on the FM for the Commissioner for Older People (Scotland) Bill. The call for views closed on 12 September 2025 and received four responses. The four responses have been [published on Citizen space](#).

As you may be aware, the Committee undertook an inquiry into [Scotland's Commissioner Landscape: A Strategic Approach](#) between December 2023 and September 2024, prompted by our concerns at the potential for, and implications of, this landscape growing exponentially over this parliamentary session and beyond.

This led to a dedicated Committee being established to look into the issue in more depth. The SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee was established in December 2024 and reported in June 2025.

The [SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee found in its report](#) that:

*"The evidence is clear that this proliferation of proposed advocacy type SPCB supported bodies this parliamentary session is being largely driven by a failure or perceived failure in public service delivery.*

*"Rather than addressing the root causes of these systemic shortcomings, the creation of a new commissioner is, in some instances, perceived as a quick win for the Government, or a vehicle for an individual MSP to promote a cause they champion".*

The report went on to say that *"there are other effective ways of addressing such issues"* and that *"the tendency to seek to create an SPCB body to address such concerns is not sustainable and should not continue"*.

Contact: Finance and Public Administration Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

Email [FPA.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:FPA.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

The Scottish Parliament agreed with the Committee's [motion S6M-18936](#) on 18 September 2025, resolving that *"the SPCB supported body landscape should not be expanded to include new advocacy-type SPCB supported bodies"*.

While it is not for the FPA Committee to consider the merits of creating individual Commissioner roles, we invite the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee to consider the parliament's decision regarding Scotland's Commissioner landscape as part of any wider scrutiny of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth J Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

**Kenneth Gibson MSP**  
**Convener**