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Finance and Constitution Committee

Report on Nominations to the Scottish Fiscal Commission



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Finance and Constitution Committee

1. The remit of the Finance and Constitution Committee is to consider and report on-
 - a. any report or other document laid before the Parliament by members of the Scottish Government containing proposals for, or budgets of, public revenue or expenditure or proposals for the making of a Scottish rate resolution, taking into account any report or recommendations concerning such documents made to them by any other committee with power to consider such documents or any part of them;
 - b. any report made by a committee setting out proposals concerning public revenue or expenditure;
 - c. Budget Bills; and
 - d. any other matter relating to or affecting the revenue or expenditure of the Scottish Administration or other monies payable into or expenditure payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund.
 - e. Constitutional matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution.
2. The Committee may also consider and, where it sees fit, report to the Parliament on the timetable for the Stages of Budget Bills and on the handling of financial business.
3. In these Rules, “public expenditure” means expenditure of the Scottish Administration, other expenditure payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund and any other expenditure met out of taxes, charges and other public revenue.



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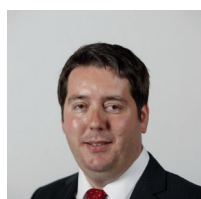
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Scottish National Party



Deputy Convener
Adam Tomkins
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Neil Bibby
Scottish Labour



Willie Coffey
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Scottish Conservative
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Ivan McKee
Scottish National Party



Maree Todd
Scottish National Party

Introduction

1. Under the terms of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016¹ (“the Act”), the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) will become a statutory body as a Non-Ministerial Department on 1 April 2017. The SFC has been operating on a non-statutory basis since June 2014. The Act states that the SFC is to consist of a Chair and at least two but no more than four other members.
2. The current Chair of the Commission is Lady Susan Rice. There are also currently two other non-statutory Commissioners, Professor Campbell Leith and Professor Charles Nolan.

Nominations

3. Section 15(3) of the SFC Act states that the “Scottish Ministers may appoint a person as a member only if the Scottish Parliament has approved the appointment.”
4. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution wrote to the Committee on 17 January 2017 setting out his nominations for the appointment of two new commissioners to the SFC. His letter along with CVs and application forms for each nominee is available in the Committee meeting papers for 1 February 2017². These have been redacted for data protection purposes. The two nominees are—
 - Professor Alasdair Smith, Inquiry Chair at the Competition and Markets Authority; and
 - David Wilson, Executive Director at the International Public Policy Institute
5. In advance of the Parliament being invited to approve the two appointments the Committee questioned the nominees against the advertised criteria for the posts at its meeting on 1 February 2017. The criteria are also included in the Committee meeting papers. The official report of the meeting is available on the Committee’s website.³
6. Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Parliament that it approve the Cabinet Secretary’s nominations for appointment to the SFC.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/17?view=plain+extent>

² [http://www.parliament.scot/S5_European/General%20Documents/2017_02_01_FinCon_Papers_-_REVISED_31_JAN_\(1\).pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/S5_European/General%20Documents/2017_02_01_FinCon_Papers_-_REVISED_31_JAN_(1).pdf)

³ <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/101355.aspx>

Conclusion

- 7. The Committee recommends that the Parliament approves the appointment of Professor Alasdair Smith and David Wilson as members of the Scottish Fiscal Commission.**

