

The Electoral Commission

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Jenni Minto MSP
Convener
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Scottish Parliament
By email: SPPA.Committee@parliament.scot

05 October 2026

Dear Convener,

Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Commonwealth Citizens) Bill

Thank you for inviting The Electoral Commission to submit evidence to the Scottish Parliament Standards Procedures and Public Appointments Committee regarding the above Bill.

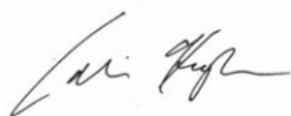
The Commission does not take a position on changes to eligibility for candidates at elections as this is a significant policy matter for Parliament to decide.

We note however that the purpose of this Bill is simply to remedy the oversight with regard to Commonwealth citizens in the Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025 so that the legislation works as intended.

Should this Bill pass, we will work with the electoral community, including potential candidates, political parties, Returning Officers and their staff, to ensure that the adjustment is implemented effectively and that the legal requirements which must be met to stand as a candidate at different elections in Scotland are understood. This will include amending our guidance and resources, and engaging with members of the electoral community to highlight the change.

If you have any further questions, please contact Kelsey Gillies, Policy and Operations Manager Scotland, at kgillies@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Cahir Hughes
Acting Head of the Electoral Commission, Scotland