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POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMISSION – RESIGNATIONS

I wrote to you on 11 August 2023 advising you of the resignations of the Chair and three members of the Poverty and Inequality Commission, and to advise that consequently Scottish Ministers would make no reappointments to the Commission at this time.

I am aware that, subsequently, the three resigning Commissioners have written to the Committee in response to your letters of 6 July 2023, indicating that they have tendered their resignations and indicating their reasons for doing so. In those letters, the Commissioners quoted from my response to their resignations. In the interests of transparency and completeness, I am attaching copies of my correspondence with the Chair and the Commissioners for your awareness. As you can see, there is an issue related to personal health detailed within that correspondence which you will wish to be aware of if you plan to publish a copy.

Following the Chair and Commissioners' discussion, Scottish Government officials have endeavoured to mediate and facilitate at every step of the process, within the confines of their roles and for the best possible outcome for all – taking account of the wellbeing of all parties concerned.

I hope that this information provides helpful context.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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