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Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee

By email: sjss.committee@parliament.scot

11 July 2023

Dear Convener,

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMISSION – NOMINATIONS FOR RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Thank you for the letter of 10 May 2023 from Claire Menzies, Committee Clerk, on behalf of the Committee, detailing the proposed level of scrutiny which will be adopted in relation to the re-appointments and new appointments of members to the Poverty and Inequality Commission (the Commission).

As already advised to the Committee by officials, the Commission currently consists of a Chair and seven Commissioners, all of whom will have served for five years when their current appointments end in 2024. The Commission's Chair and three of the Commissioners have indicated their willingness to be re-appointed in their roles for a further three years, to reach their maximum term of service of eight years.

I am therefore writing to confirm my nominations for re-appointment as follows:

- Bill Scott, as Chair, from 21 January 2024 to 20 January 2027 and
- Linda Bamford, Lindsay Graham and Shona Stephen as Commissioners from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027.

I believe that making these re-appointments will continue to provide the Commission with the experience, skills and leadership it requires to deliver against its strategic priorities, in addition to maintaining a level of continuity. This will be particularly essential as the Commission enters a period in 2024 of appointing five new Commissioners and as we approach the date of the interim child poverty targets and the next child poverty delivery plan in 2026. The value of having these re-appointments in place through this period will ensure some continuity and help the Commission build on its work so far.

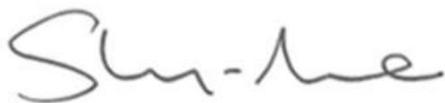
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I would therefore be grateful if you could initiate the Parliamentary scrutiny process to ensure that, in line with the [Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#), and subject to Parliament's approval, the appointments are approved and may take up re-appointment as Chair and Commissioners from 21 January 2024 and 1 July 2024 respectively.

I have also asked my officials to remain in contact with your clerks, on both the re-appointment and appointment exercises, to ensure the scrutiny approach set out by the Committee can be met. To aid with these arrangements I have attached a timetable at Annex A, detailing the timescales we are working to. Please let me know if this gives the Committee any cause for concern.

I look forward to learning of the outcome of the Committee's consideration of the re-appointments.

Yours sincerely,



SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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Poverty and Inequality Commission: Public Appointments Exercise Timetables

Re-appointment Exercise

| Stage in Process | Dates |
|---|----------------------|
| Letter to Committee advising of re-appointment recommendations and requesting start of parliamentary scrutiny | 29 June 2023 |
| Letter from Committee to re-appointees | 30 June–7 July 2023 |
| Reply to Committee letters | 10-28 July 2023 |
| Committee considers re-appointments | 4-8 September 2023 |
| Committee considers report to Parliament on re-appointments | 11-15 September 2023 |
| Motion laid in Parliament | 18-22 September 2023 |
| Agreement from Parliament | 28 September 2023 |

Appointment Exercise

| Stage in Process | Dates |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Letter to Committee advising of appointment exercise | 29 June 2023 |
| Letter to Committee advising of appointment recommendations and requesting start of parliamentary scrutiny | 26 February 2024 |
| Committee meets with Selection Panel Chair and Poverty and Inequality Commission Chair, followed by meeting with appointees | 27 February – 14 March 2024 |
| Committee considers appointments | 14 March 2024 |
| Committee considers report to Parliament on appointments | 15-22 March 2024 |
| Motion laid in Parliament | 8-12 April 2024 |
| Agreement from Parliament | 18 April 2024 |
| Candidates advised of the outcome | 19-22 April 2024 |

*Please note dates may be subject to change.

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