



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Climate Change Adviser to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

19 March 2020

Reference: SPCB(2020)Paper 15

Executive summary

1. This paper seeks approval from the SPCB for the appointment of an adviser to support the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee in developing and testing: the approach to climate change scrutiny; the scrutiny framework, development of related guidance, training and scrutiny tools to support parliamentary committees

Issues and options

2. The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee has been considering how the Scottish Parliament can ensure effective scrutiny of GHG/climate change and related action.
3. Effective scrutiny will engage all parliamentary committees. It will require consideration of climate governance within Scotland, the UK and internationally, consideration of policy, legislation and the Scottish Government's Budget. It will involve scrutiny of the Scottish Government and of public bodies. It will also involve developing the capacity of staff and Members across all committees, engaging with subject experts in the development of briefing materials, drawing on international best practice and the development of scrutiny tools. This is a developing and complex area and the Committee is keen to ensure that the approach, framework, scrutiny tools, training and guidance to support effective scrutiny are developed, tested and in place in before the next parliamentary session.
4. The Committee has agreed, therefore, that an expert adviser would significantly assist in development of the focus and approach to scrutiny and in development and implementation of an action plan to deliver this. The Committee and seeks approval for an adviser to be appointed until the end of the current Parliamentary session.
5. The proposed adviser's main duties and a person specification is set out in Annexe A.

Resource implications

6. It is anticipated the adviser will be required, on average, 4 days per month, up to the end of parliamentary session in April 2021. It is anticipated that the commitment will vary over the period of appointment, with greater involvement in the early stages of the development work.
7. Remuneration will be £200 per 8-hour day, plus expenses.

Governance issues

8. There are no governance issues associated with this request.

Publication scheme

9. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB's Publication Scheme.

Decision

10. The SPCB is invited to agree to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee's request to appoint an adviser to support its Climate Change work programme.

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee clerks

Annexe A

Adviser's duties

At this stage, the following list has been drawn up of the adviser's duties—

- Provide strategic advice about committee's approach to scrutiny of climate change governance, policy, legislation and related climate change impacts;
- Provide advice about the impact of climate change;
- Provide advice about how GHG/climate change and governance should be embedded in Scottish policy and legislation;
- Provide advice about how GHG/climate change and governance should be embedded in the Scottish Government Budget;
- Provide advice on scrutiny frameworks, support and scrutiny tools;
- Provide advice on the development of guidance and training programmes and materials in relation to climate change;
- Provide advice about calls for evidence, possible witnesses, draft lines of questioning and analyse evidence in relation to the Committee's scrutiny of climate change;
- Attend committee meetings to provide background briefings, especially ahead of evidence sessions or consideration of reports; and
- Assist in the drafting of any reports published in relation to the Committee's scrutiny of climate change.

It is anticipated that the adviser would work with the clerking team and SPICe and would be available to other colleagues.

Person specification

Skills/abilities

Detailed knowledge of climate policy and law in Scotland and internationally. A high level of analytical skills, good written and oral communication skills, ability to work to tight deadlines is also required.

Experience

Experience of working in climate policy in Scotland. Experience of working with politicians is highly desirable.

Knowledge

Climate policy and legislation; UK and Scottish political and parliamentary systems.

Time commitment

Estimated start time – as soon as possible, as the Committee has agreed it wishes to progress its work on climate change as a matter of priority.

Communication and conflicts of interest

Communication – on-going communication would be via the clerking team but there will be the expectation that the adviser would attend some committee meetings/visits. On these occasions, the adviser would be expected to brief members, before and after evidence sessions, and provide written briefings, as required. The clerk would be happy to receive from the adviser any feedback on the appointment process or any aspect of the contract.

Conflicts of interest – the adviser would undertake that, during the course of this contract, they would not undertake any other contract that may produce, in the sole opinion of the Committee, a conflict of interest in relation to the advisory appointment. The opinion of the Committee would be final.