



Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee

Derek Mackay
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Dear Derek

SNIB – process for the appointment of a Chair-designate

Further to your letter of 24 April seeking our approval for the accelerated process you outline, the Committee has heard from and discussed the matter with your officials (the Bill team) and had a chance to reflect.

While sympathetic to and recognising the logic of what you propose, we have two caveats.

First, we would ask that you invite the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland to consider if she would take oversight of the accelerated stage of the process (though not of course through formal regulation).

Second, in the interest of securing the widest and very best field of candidates, we seek further detail on how you will ensure best practice regarding fairness and transparency is maintained; and to that end ask that you report back to us on the steps being taken – and the timetable to which you are working – in relation to the appointment i.e. approach to advertising, application arrangements, interview process and so on.

On a further SNIB-related matter, we understand that at this stage the draft strategic framework is very much that – a draft. It is though a key document in relation to the Bill, one the Committee would expect to have sight of in order to help inform our Stage 1 consideration. We begin taking formal evidence next Tuesday (7 May) and therefore it would be helpful for us to see this document now, however draft its current form, but also as it develops.

Finally, let me thank you and your officials for your willingness to engage with us so constructively, and we look forward to our work scrutinising the Bill in the coming weeks.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon Lindhurst". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G" and "L".

Gordon Lindhurst MSP

Convener