SCOTTISH COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC AUDIT: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

Issue

1. The SPCB is invited to seek, by motion, the Parliament’s approval to appoint Bill Bowman MSP to be a member of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit, as a replacement for John Lamont MSP.

   Contact: Stephen Herbert, Secretary to the Scottish Commission for Public Audit
   Extension: 85205.

Timing

2. It is desirable that the Commission should have a full complement of members by the beginning of June, prior to its next meeting.

Discussion

3. The Scottish Commission for Public Audit (“the Commission”) was established by the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 (“the Act”). Its principal function is to examine Audit Scotland’s proposals for the use of resources and expenditure and report on them to the Parliament.

4. The Commission consists of five members of the Parliament. The Convener of the Public Audit Committee is an ex-officio member in accordance with Section 12(2)(a) of the Act and the four other members are appointed by the SPCB in accordance with Standing Orders (Rule 3.13).

5. The resignation of John Lamont MSP, the former Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party member for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire, on 27 April 2017, has created a vacancy on the Commission. In terms of Standing Orders Rule 3.13 (reproduced at Annexe A), members of the Commission are appointed by the SPCB, which is required to seek the agreement of the Parliament by way of a motion (to appoint a member to serve on the Commission). In accordance with Rule 3.13.4, in making a proposal (i.e. in putting forward a Member’s name), the SPCB is obliged to have regard to the balance of political parties in the Parliament.

6. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business Manager has been approached and has nominated Bill Bowman MSP to replace John Lamont MSP.

Resource Implications

7. There are no financial or other resource implications in appointing members to the Commission. Staff from the Committee Office provide clerking support to the Commission.
Publication

8. This paper will be published in line with the SPCB’s Publication Scheme.

Decision

9. The SPCB is invited to agree to seek the agreement of the Parliament to appoint Bill Bowman MSP to be a member of the Commission. A draft motion is attached at Annexe B.

10. Should the motion be agreed to by the Parliament, a draft letter of appointment will be provided for the Presiding Officer to issue.

Committee and Outreach Services
11 May 2017
ANNEXE A: Rule 3.13 Appointment of members of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit

1. The four members of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit (“the Commission”) referred to in section 12(2)(b) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 1) shall be appointed by the Parliamentary corporation.

2. The parliamentary corporation shall not make any appointment under this Rule without the agreement of the Parliament.

3. A member of the Parliamentary corporation shall by motion seek the agreement of the Parliament to the Parliamentary corporation’s proposal to appoint either—
   (a) an individual member to be a member of the Commission; or
   (b) a group of 2 or more members to be members of the Commission.

4. In making a proposal under this Rule the Parliamentary corporation shall have regard to the balance of political parties in the Parliament.

5. Before the Presiding Officer puts to the Parliament the question on a motion relating to a group of members, the motion may be amended but only to delete that part of the motion relating to a particular member or members.
ANNEXE B: DRAFT SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY CORPORATE BODY MOTION

Date of Lodging: xx Month Year

Short Title: Scottish Commission for Public Audit

S5M-XXX Andy Wightman MSP on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body: Scottish Commission for Public Audit—That the Parliament agrees to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body’s proposal to appoint Bill Bowman MSP to be a member of the Scottish Commission for Public Audit.