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## Finance and Public Administration Committee

# Report on Commissioner nominees to the Scottish Fiscal Commission



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# Finance and Public Administration Committee

To consider and report on the following —
a. any report or other document containing proposals for, or budgets of, public revenue or expenditure or proposals for the making of a Scottish rate resolution, taking into account any report or recommendations concerning such documents made by any other committee with power to consider such documents or any part of them;
b. any report made by a committee setting out proposals concerning public revenue or expenditure;
c. Budget Bills;
d. any other matter relating to or affecting the revenue or expenditure of the Scottish Administration or other monies payable into or expenditure payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund;
e. any other matter falling within the responsibility of the Scottish Administration relating to the National Performance Framework, public inquiries, and public administration; and proposals for the formation and budgets of officeholders established by the Parliament.


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# Committee Membership



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Scottish Liberal Democrats



**Pauline Stafford**
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**Liam Kerr**
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**Angela Ross**
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# Scottish Fiscal Commission

1. The Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) was established on a statutory basis [1] in April 2017 as Scotland's independent forecaster responsible for preparing the economic and fiscal forecasts that underpin the Scottish Budget, reflecting powers devolved under the Scotland Act 2016 (the 2016 Act) [2]. The 2016 Act constituted the SFC as a Non-Ministerial Office with direct accountability to the Scottish Parliament for the delivery of its functions.

2. As well as producing forecasts alongside the Scottish Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, the SFC also regularly reports on the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Scottish Government's public finances and produces annual fiscal updates.

3. The SFC currently has two Commissioners in post: Professor Graeme Roy (Chair) and Dr Eleanor Ryan. Professor Roy's term ends on 31 May 2030 [3], and Dr Ryan's term ends on 7 October 2029, with an option of reappointment for a further period after her term ends.

# Appointment process

4. The 2016 Act provides that there should be between three and five members of the SFC, one of whom should serve as Chair. Ministers have determined that the SFC should have four Members including the Chair. Section 17(1) of the 2016 Act allows for an initial period of appointment of up to five years. It is for the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to determine the exact period of appointment, after Parliamentary approval.

5. Section 15(3) of the 2016 Act states that "Scottish Ministers may appoint a person as a member [of the SFC] only if the Scottish Parliament has approved the appointment". The appointments process for the Commissioner posts follows the Code of Practice for Public Appointments and is regulated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

6. There are currently two vacancies on the Commission to be filled: the posts previously held by Professor Domenico Lombardi (June 2022 – December 2025) and Justine Riccomini (October 2025 – October 2026).

7. The Finance and Public Administration Committee is required to approve appointments to the SFC and to report to Parliament accordingly.

# Nominations

8. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government wrote to the Committee on 5 November 2026[i] recommending the appointment of Melissa Davey and Professor Stephen Millard as Commissioners.

9. In her letter, the Cabinet Secretary states that Melissa Davey has held various roles at the Bank of England, including her current role as Director of the Independent Evaluation Office. She is also a Trustee and Treasurer of Southwark Citizens Advice Service and a Fellow of the Forward Institute. Professor Stephen Millard is a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council and Deputy Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. He is also an Honorary Professor at Durham University Business School and a Visiting Professor at the University of Portsmouth.

10. The Cabinet Secretary also states that, “this appointment, should the Parliament agree to it, will help ensure that the SFC has a full complement of Commissioners”.

11. In advance of Parliament being invited to approve the appointments, the Committee took evidence from both nominees on 18 November 2026 in relation to the requirements of the Commissioner role.

12. Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Parliament that it approves the Cabinet Secretary's nominations for appointment to the SFC.

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i Cabinet Secretary's letter can be viewed in FPA Committee meeting papers, 18 November 2026

# Conclusion

13. **The Committee recommends that the Parliament approves the appointment of Melissa Davey and Professor Stephen Millard as Commissioners of the Scottish Fiscal Commission.**

1 The SFC was created on a non-statutory basis in June 2014 with a remit that reflected the fiscal powers devolved to the Scottish Parliament under the Scotland Act 2012.

2 Scotland Act 2016

3 Professor Roy was originally appointed for his first term in May 2022 and reappointed starting June 2026.

