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11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

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

I wrote to you on 29 June requesting that you initiate the Parliamentary scrutiny process regarding re-appointments of members to the Poverty and Inequality Commission (the Commission).

I am aware that you wrote to the Commission on 6th July as the first stage of this scrutiny process and are currently awaiting responses. I am, however, writing to inform you that the Chair and Commissioners recommended for reappointment have written to me to tender their resignations. I therefore notify you that there will be no reappointments of existing Commissioners to the Commission by Scottish Ministers at this time. I am aware that you are due to consider the reappointments at your meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September but, I hope, this time can now be freed for other business.

I also advised you in my letter of 29 June of the timeline for a new appointments process for up to 5 new Commissioners. As a result of the resignations we will need to reconsider those timescales given the amendments we will need to make to the process to recruit a higher number of new Commissioners and to add recruitment of a new Chair.

Unfortunately it will not be possible to conclude the new appointments process before the end of the 3 month notice period and therefore Scottish Ministers will seek approval from the Ethical Standards Commissioner to make interim appointments to ensure the effective operation of the Commission until new Commissioners can be put in place.

My officials are working at pace to ensure that we can conclude these processes as soon as possible and I will write to you again in due course to seek your view on the scrutiny you will wish to undertake regarding the interim appointments, to advise of revisions to the timetable for new appointments, and to reconfirm the scrutiny that you wish to undertake in the appointments process, taking account of the changed circumstances.

My officials will continue to liaise with the Committee Clerks to ensure the minimal disruption to your plans.

Yours sincerely,

**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**