



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# SCS Member, Terms and Conditions of Appointment

## By Correspondence

Reference: SPCB (2023) Paper 79

### Executive summary

1. A vacancy will arise in the Standards Commission for Scotland (the Commission), due to one of the existing members handing in her notice, by letter of 4 December 2023, to the Presiding Officer.
2. Anne-Marie O'Hara was appointed by the SPCB with the agreement of the Parliament, as a part-time member of the Commission on 13 March 2023. She has confirmed that she will remain in post until a new member is appointed.
3. The SPCB is required to determine the terms and conditions of appointment of a new member of the Commission before the recruitment process can begin. Details of the existing members terms and conditions of appointment are set out in Annex A.

### Background

4. The Commission is established by the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000. The Commission is an independent body whose purpose is to encourage high ethical standards in public life through the promotion and enforcement of Codes of Conduct for councillors and those appointed to the boards of devolved public bodies.
5. The Commission has 5 part-time members – a convener who works 3 days per month and 4 part-time members who each work 2 days per month.
6. The members of the Commission are

Paul Walker	Convener Member	01.09.2021 – 06.05.2024 07.05.2018 – 31.08.2021
Ashleigh Dunn	Member	04.03.2019 – 03.03.2025
Suzie Vestri	Member	07.02.2022 – 06.02.2028
Anne-Marie O'Hara	Member	13.03.2023 – 12.03.2029

Helen Donaldson	Member	01.04.2023 –31.03.2029
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## Issues and options

7. The SPCB will be aware that under SPCB Paper (2023) 63, it recently agreed the terms and conditions for the new convener of the Commission to enable the recruitment process to begin for Paul Walker's successor. Mr Walker's term of office comes to an end on 6 May 2024.
8. If the SPCB is content, we would propose advertising both posts (convener and member) at the same time to reduce advertising costs. **Is the SPCB content to do so?**
9. The SPCB agreed that membership of the panel would be Claire Baker MSP, Maggie Chapman MSP and Jackson Carlaw MSP. **Would the SPCB panel members be content to interview for two posts instead of one?**
10. The terms and conditions of appointment for the current members of the Commission are set out in Annex A. We would recommend these terms and conditions are used for the new member to ensure no equality issues arise. **Does the SPCB agree?**

## Governance

11. All relevant governance issues have been considered.

## Resource implications

12. The cost of undertaking an open recruitment exercise for two posts including the cost of advertising and an independent assessor remains the same at circa £5k. Provision for this has been made in the SPCB's 2023-24 budget.

## Publication Scheme

13. We would recommend that this paper is not published until the recruitment exercise begins.

## Decision

14. The SPCB is invited to -
  - (i) agree that both posts are advertised at the same time
  - (ii) agree that the terms and conditions of the new member are the same as the existing members as set out in Annex A, and
  - (iii) consider whether the members of the SPCB who agreed to sit on the selection panel for the convener's post would be willing to interview for two posts instead of one.

December 2023

## Annex A

### Members of the Standards Commission of Scotland – Terms and Conditions

<b>Term and Conditions</b>	
Length of term	6 years
Full or part-time	Part-time
Time commitment	2 days a month plus additional days for Hearings
Daily fee	£277.55
Hourly rate for Hearings	£37
Pensionable	No
Expenses	Yes. Actually and necessarily incurred in line with the SPCB's expenses scheme
Other appointments/ employment	Subject to SPCB approval
Subject to annual evaluation?	Yes, by the Convener