

Parliamentary Bureau – Establishment of a Committee

Purpose

1. This paper invites the Bureau to consider and agree a Bureau motion on the establishment of a Committee.

Background

2. The Bureau has previously considered correspondence from the Finance and Public Administration Committee relating to its inquiry report. “Scotland’s Commissioner Landscape: A Strategic Approach”, which recommended that a new, dedicated Parliamentary Committee be established to conduct a ‘root and branch review’ of SPCB supported bodies. The Committee’s report was debated in the Chamber on 31 October and the Parliament resolved—

“That the Parliament welcomes the Finance and Public Administration Committee’s 7th Report, 2024 (Session 6), Scotland’s Commissioner Landscape: A Strategic Approach (SP Paper 642); agrees with the recommendation that a dedicated committee should be established to carry out a “root and branch” review, with the purpose of creating a clear strategic framework to underpin and provide more coherence and structure to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) supported body landscape, which should complete its work by June 2025, and further agrees that, while this review is undertaken, there should be a moratorium on creating any new SPCB supported bodies, or expanding the remit of existing bodies, while recognising that, for proposals within bills that have already been introduced, these are now for the Parliament to take a decision on, respecting the lead committees’ roles in scrutinising legislation within their remits.”

3. Under Rule 6.1.2, the Parliamentary Bureau may propose the establishment, membership, remit and duration of a committee. In nominating Members to a Committee, Business Managers need to consider the availability of Members on the day on which it is proposed to meet.
4. The Bureau discussed the size, composition, convenership, duration and remit of the Committee at its meeting on 19th November. The Bureau was informed that there was an available meeting slot on a Thursday. On that basis, each of the political parties was invited to nominate a Member to sit on the Committee in order that a motion could be drafted for the Bureau’s consideration.

Recommendation

5. The Bureau is invited to consider and agree that the Bureau motion set out below be lodged:

Establishment of a Committee

That the Parliament shall establish a committee of the Parliament as follows:

Name of Committee: SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee

Remit: To consider, review and report on the SPCB supported bodies landscape in accordance with the Parliament's resolution of 31 October 2024 and develop a clear strategic framework to underpin and provide coherence and structure to the SPCB supported bodies landscape by the end of June 2025, including—

- a. creating effective accountability and scrutiny mechanisms,
- b. formalising strengthened criteria for creating new supported bodies; and
- c. identifying and addressing any barriers to sharing services and offices.

Duration: Until 30 September 2025.

Convenership: The Convener will be a member of the Scottish National Party.

Membership: Murdo Fraser, Ben MacPherson, Lorna Slater, Richard Leonard.

Parliamentary Business Team
November 2024