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Kenneth Gibson
Convenor
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: fpa.committee@parliament.scot

23 June 2021

Dear Kenny,

Thank you for your letter of 20th June regarding efforts that we can make to help encourage a better gender balance in the leadership at the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

As you will be aware, we made a concerted effort to try and attract a more diverse set of candidates during the last appointment round, however these unfortunately proved unsuccessful.

I personally place huge importance on having a gender balance in the leadership and boards across Scotland's public sector. Professor Roy will commence his role as Chair of the Commission from 1 July. It is my intention to discuss this issue when we meet. In particular I want to discuss the need to attract suitably qualified female applicants and the specific barriers preventing women applying for Commissioner roles.

I will write again to the Committee once I have had the opportunity to speak with Professor Roy and considered the matter further with my officials.

Yours sincerely,

KATE FORBES

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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