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Shona Stephen  
Commissioner  
Poverty and Inequality Commission  
E-mail:

16 August 2023

Dear Shona

Thank you for your letter dated 9 August 2023 notifying me of your resignation as a member of the Poverty and Inequality Commission.

Whilst I appreciate that you wish to resign with immediate effect I am afraid that I cannot release you and your fellow commissioners immediately as doing so would be willingly placing Scottish Ministers in breach of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 as amended by the Public Services Reform (Poverty and Inequality Commission) Order 2018, which states that the Commission must have a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 members in addition to a Chair.

I am sure that you will appreciate that, particularly during a cost of living crisis, it is important to maintain operation of the Commission and to ensure that it can fulfil its statutory duties. I therefore hope, that in the public interest, you can continue to participate in Commission work during your 3 month notice period. Your resignation letter was submitted to me on 10 August 2023. Therefore, your notice period will run from 11 August 2023 to 10 November 2023.

Your letter specifically references potential future public appointments. As you will be aware all public appointments are subject to a fair and open appointment process with Scottish Ministers making final decisions on the recommendation of the appointment panel and in line with the Ethical Standards Commissioner Code of Practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service.

Yours sincerely,

**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**