

# SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2024 (Session 6), Thursday 29  
February 2024**

## **Poverty and Inequality Commission Review Report**

### **Clerk's Note**

1. The Poverty and Inequality Commission (the Commission) provides independent advice and scrutiny to Scottish Ministers on poverty and inequality. The chair of the Commission and three of its members resigned during a re-appointment process that began in mid-2023.
2. This paper sets out the background to the in-private evidence session with John Somers, the Scottish Government official who undertook a review of the circumstances that led to the resignations from the Commission.
3. Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (the Cabinet Secretary), wrote to the Committee on [25 January 2024](#) stating that the Scottish Government had accepted the [Poverty and Inequality Commission Resignation Review Report recommendations](#) on its part and that a Revised Framework Document was published last year.
4. Under the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, the Parliament has a role in approving the Scottish Government's nominees for appointment to the Commission. In the coming months the Committee will report to the Parliament on the nominees for appointment.
5. On [8 February 2024](#), the Committee agreed to hold an in-private evidence session on the Review Report with the reviewer. The Committee wrote to the Cabinet Secretary on [19 February 2024](#), saying it was keen to hear from the reviewer in advance of its consideration of the Scottish Government's nominees for appointment to the Commission.
6. More information on the resignations and appointments to the Commission can be found on the Committee's [webpage](#).

**Clerks to the Committee  
26 February 2024**