

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

**OFFICEHOLDER APPOINTMENT – SCOTTISH INFORMATION
COMMISSIONER**

Introduction

1. This paper invites the Parliamentary Bureau to timetable a motion, inviting the Parliament to nominate the successful candidate to His Majesty for appointment as the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Background

2. Standing Orders Rule 3.11.2 provides that a selection panel is to be established to recommend a person for nomination. Once the selection panel has decided on an individual, any member of the panel may lodge a motion seeking the agreement of the Parliament to the nomination.
3. Rule 3.11.8 further provides that any debate on a motion on the nomination of a new Commissioner is restricted to 30 minutes with each speaker being restricted to no more than 5 minutes.
4. The current Commissioner Daren Fitzhenry's term in office ends on 15 October 2023.
5. A recruitment exercise has started to find Mr Fitzhenry's successor and it is expected that a nomination will be made by 19 June. To enable the successful candidate to hand in their notice in the knowledge that they have been nominated by the Parliament for appointment and that no vacancy in the office of the Commissioner arises as a result of the successful candidate's notice period it would be helpful for the motion to be taken before summer recess.

Conclusion

6. The Parliamentary Bureau is invited to agree to a motion being timetabled for debate during the week commencing 26 June 2023.

**Parliamentary Business Team
May 2023**