



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Published 3 October 2018

SP Paper 390

10th report (Session 5)

Finance and Constitution Committee Comataidh Ionmhais is Bun-reachd

Report on nominations to the Scottish Fiscal Commission



Published in Scotland by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

All documents are available on the Scottish
Parliament website at:
[http://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/
91279.aspx](http://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/91279.aspx)

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:
Telephone: 0131 348 5000
Textphone: 0800 092 7100
Email: sp.info@parliament.scot

Contents

Introduction	1
Nominations	2
Conclusion	3
Bibliography	4

Finance and Constitution Committee

To consider and report on the following (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A)—

(a) any report or other document laid before the Parliament by members of the Scottish Government containing proposals for, or budgets of, public revenue or expenditure or proposals for the making of a Scottish rate resolution, taking into account any report or recommendations concerning such documents made to them by any other committee with power to consider such documents or any part of them;

(b) any report made by a committee setting out proposals concerning public revenue or expenditure;

(c) Budget Bills; and

(d) any other matter relating to or affecting the revenue or expenditure of the Scottish Administration or other monies payable into or expenditure payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund.

(e) constitutional matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution



<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/Finance-Constitution-Committee.aspx>



finance.constitution@parliament.scot



0131 348 5215

Committee Membership



Convener
Bruce Crawford
Scottish National Party



Deputy Convener
Adam Tomkins
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Tom Arthur
Scottish National Party



Neil Bibby
Scottish Labour



Alexander Burnett
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Angela Constance
Scottish National Party



Willie Coffey
Scottish National Party



Murdo Fraser
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Emma Harper
Scottish National Party



Patrick Harvie
Scottish Green Party



James Kelly
Scottish Labour

Introduction

1. Under the terms of the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act 2016 ¹ ("the Act"), the Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) became a statutory body as a Non-Ministerial Department on 1 April 2017. The Act states that the SFC is to normally consist of a Chair and at least two but no more than four other members.
2. The current Chair of the Commission is Dame Susan Rice and there is currently one other Commissioner, Professor Alasdair Smith.

Nominations

3. Section 15(3) of the Act states that the—
 - ” Scottish Ministers may appoint a person as a member only if the Scottish Parliament has approved the appointment.
4. The Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work wrote to the Committee on 26 September 2018, setting out his nominations for the appointment of two new commissioners to the SFC. His letter along with CVs and application forms for each nominee is available in the Committee meeting papers for 3 October 2018.² The two nominees are—
 - Professor David Ulph CBE, Professor of Economics, University of St Andrews; and
 - Professor Francis Breedon, Professor of Economics and Finance, Queen Mary University of London.
5. In advance of the Parliament being invited to approve the two appointments, the Committee questioned the nominees against the advertised job specification for the posts at its meeting on 3 October 2018. The job specification is also included in the Committee meeting papers. The official report of the meeting is available on the Committee's website³.
6. Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Parliament that it approve the Cabinet Secretary's nominations for appointment to the SFC.
7. The Committee also wrote to the Cabinet Secretary seeking more information regarding how the recruitment process supports diversity and gender balance representation within the SFC.

Conclusion

The Committee recommends that the Parliament approves the appointment of Professor David Ulph and Professor Francis Breedon as members of the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

- [1] No title (n.d.) Retrieved from <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/17/contents> [accessed 2 October 2018]
- [2] No title (n.d.) Retrieved from http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S5_Finance/Meeting%20Papers/Meeting_Papers_Public_3_Oct_2018.pdf [accessed 2 October 2018]
- [3] No title (n.d.) Retrieved from <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/Finance-Constitution-Committee.aspx> [accessed 2 October 2018]

