

Joan McAlpine MSP  
Convenor  
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

8 March 2017

Dear Convenor

## **Appointment of new BBC Board Members for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**

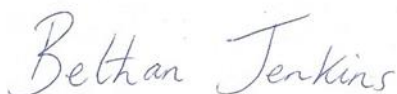
Under the new BBC Charter, the new BBC Board, which will govern the BBC, will have a non-executive Nation Member for each of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The recruitment of the Nation Member for Wales is being managed by the UK Government but the consent of the Welsh Government will be needed before the appointment is made. I understand that similar arrangements apply to the Nation Members for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

My Committee has called on the Welsh Government to withhold its consent for any appointment until the Committee has had a chance to hold a pre-appointment hearing with the UK Government's nominee for the post. This would be in line with arrangements for the Chair of the new Board, who cannot be appointed unless a pre-appointment hearing has been held and a report published by the House of Commons Select Committee. While the Welsh Government has yet to formally respond to our recommendation, the Minister responsible has indicated that he is in favour of confirmation hearings for this appointment.

My purpose in writing is, therefore, twofold. First, to ask whether any arrangements are in place in Scotland for a pre-appointment Committee hearing with the UK Government's nominee for the Nation Member for Scotland? Second, and if not, to ask whether your Committee would consider this issue and lend its voice to a call for such hearings to be held in Scotland and Wales? I hope to write in due course to our colleagues in Northern Ireland in similar vein but it seems unlikely that a Committee will be appointed there for some time yet.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



**Bethan Jenkins AC**

**Chair**

