



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **CULTURE, TOURISM EUROPE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Bethan Jenkins AC  
Chair  
Culture, Welsh Language and  
Communications Committee

The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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08 May 2017

Dear Chair

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

On behalf of the Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External relations Committee I would like to thank you for your letter of 8 March outlining your concerns regarding the appointment of non-executive Nation Members to the BBC Board, under the new BBC Charter.

As you will see from the attached letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, the Scottish member (Steve Morrison) has now been appointed. Although the Scottish Government welcomed the appointment, concerns were raised about the process and in particular the time available to respond.

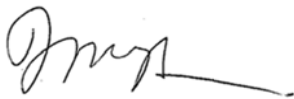
The Committee has therefore been unable to undertake any pre-appointment scrutiny but intends to invite Mr Morrison to give evidence to the Committee in the coming months to discuss his role and plans for the position in the future.

I understand that Welsh Ministers did not give their consent to the appointment proposed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Dr Carol Bell). Members of this Committee agree that wider consideration should be given to the

appointment process in future, which allows for the requisite level of input from the devolved nations to ensure that appointments fairly reflect their interests.

I would be grateful for any update you may be able to provide in relation to your own deliberations on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joan McAlpine MSP

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Joan McAlpine MSP

Convenor

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee

The Scottish Parliament

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24 March 2017

Dear Joan

I am writing to you to outline my role, and the role of the Scottish Government, in the process and subsequent outcome of the recent UKG led appointment of the nations' representative for Scotland to the BBC Unitary Board which will replace the BBC Trust on 3 April 2017.

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government had, for the first time, an active role in the development of the new Charter and secured a role in the appointment of a specific board member to represent Scotland's interests, as set out in Clause 23(8) of the new Charter.

The advertisement for board members went live in November 2016 and the subsequent sift and interviews took place in February 2017. The selection panel comprised of Jonathan Pryce (Director for Culture, Tourism and Major Events, Scottish Government); Sue Owen (Panel Chair, DCMS Permanent Secretary), Sir David Clementi (BBC Chair designate) and Dr Robert Black (independent member and former Auditor General for Scotland).

Five candidates were interviewed and the panel agreed that Steve Morrison was an outstanding candidate, who would act as a powerful advocate for Scotland. The selection panel noted, in particular, that he is very knowledgeable about the commercial sector, with a host of interesting ideas for partnership working.

Karen Bradley, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, wrote to me on 28 February 2017 setting out that she was minded to recommend Steve Morrison to the Prime Minister and asking for my agreement, as she is required to do in accordance with Clause 23(8) of the Charter.

I responded on 1 March, confirming that I am content with the recommendation but I also took the opportunity to express concern about the amount of time I was given to respond on such an important matter.

*Kind regards  
Fiona*

**FIONA HYSLOP**