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Convenor Richard Leonard
Public Audit Committee
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14 October 2024

Dear Richard,

I am writing to update you in relation to Water Industry Commission for Scotland (WICS).

I wrote to you on 7 October to inform you I had received and accepted the resignation of the Chair of WICS, Donald MacRae, effective from 21 October 2024. I am now confirming that an interim Chair, Ronnie Hinds, has been appointed while a permanent Chair is recruited. As you are aware, Ronnie is one of two interim Members that were appointed to the organisation's Board in July.

Ronnie has extensive experience of governance in the public sector which I expect him to draw upon as he leads the organisation's ongoing response to the issues highlighted in the Auditor General's section 22 report. He also has previous Chair experience at Boundaries Scotland and as acting Chair of the Accounts Commission.

I have been clear with the interim Chair and the Board that they need to continue to work hard to deliver the changes required to reset the organisation so it delivers to the high standards I expect of a public body.

I welcome the opportunity this provides to continue to reset WICS in light of the unacceptable financial and governance issues that have arisen in the organisation.

Yours sincerely,

GILLIAN MARTIN

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