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Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee

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27 September 2023

Dear Convener,

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMISSION (THE COMMISSION) – RE-APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS – ADDENDUM TO EARLIER LETTER

I would like to make an addendum to my letter to you dated 25 September 2023. In that letter I outlined that prior to the 25 July 2023, no concerns had been raised with the Commission's Secretariat regarding the effectiveness or operation of the Commission.

In the interest of accuracy, I would like you to note that the Secretariat became aware that the three Commissioners had some questions and concerns about the re-appointments process during the week of 10 July, shortly after they received letters about their re-appointments from the Committee. During this week it was agreed that there would be a meeting between the Commissioners and the Chair on 25 July to discuss this. The full extent of the Commissioners' concerns only became clear to the Secretariat in the days leading up to the 25 July meeting. Following that meeting on 25 July the Secretariat shared the concerns with the Sponsor Team, with the agreement of the three Commissioners.

Please accept my apologies that this level of detail was not included in my earlier response. As previously noted no concerns regarding the effectiveness or operation of the Commission had been raised with either the Secretariat or the Sponsor team prior to this.

I hope my earlier response and the additional information provided above enables the Committee to set out the level of scrutiny it wishes to adopt when considering the new round of public appointments to the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE