



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

Kenneth Gibson MSP  
Convener  
Finance and Public Administration Committee

**8 January 2025**

Dear Kenneth

### Scrutiny of SPCB supported bodies

Thank you for your letter of 13 November 2024 seeking the Committee's views on how SPCB-supported bodies fulfil their functions. Specifically, the SPCB-supported body that falls under the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee's remit is the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC).

You sought clarification, generally, of any work this Committee has undertaken in relation to scrutiny of the officeholder's budget, annual accounts and strategic plan, as well as future plans for any such scrutiny.

In general, the Committee holds an annual evidence session with the SHRC. The two most recent in this parliamentary session were held on [6 December 2022](#) and [16 January 2024](#). The Committee will be holding its session this year on 14 January.

Historically, these sessions are held after the SHRC has published its annual report and are an opportunity for the Committee to scrutinise the Commission informed by that report. Areas covered during the sessions have included: the SHRC's strategic priorities; annual accounts; budget for staffing and resources; powers and functions of the SHRC; monitoring of the SHRC's performance; the SHRC's work programme and priorities for the year.

It should be noted that the Committee also hears from the SHRC in the course of its inquiries and scrutiny of legislation, but this is about obtaining its views rather than holding it to account.

We note that during the course of your Committee's inquiry into Scotland's Commissioner Landscape, some Commissioners told you they would welcome more opportunities to give evidence to committees on their performance and that a significant number of witnesses felt that parliamentary scrutiny should be enhanced with a focus on delivery of outcomes. This is something that the Committee will be interested in reflecting on.

Contact: Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.  
Email [EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

I look forward to following your ongoing work in this area closely as well as that of the newly established SPCB Supported Bodies Landscape Review Committee and drawing on that as we look ahead to future scrutiny of the SHRC.

Yours sincerely

**Karen Adam MSP**  
**Convener**