



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Sarah Mackie  
Head of the Electoral Commission in Scotland  
By email

**6 November 2025**

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter enclosing the draft Code of Practice for non-party campaigners in Scotland.

The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee considered the draft Code at its meeting today along with the post consultation report and the non-statutory guidance.

The Committee notes the changes made to the Code in light of the public consultation and the stakeholder event hosted by SCVO. The Committee does not have any specific comments to make on the Code of Practice. The Committee will, of course, consider the draft Code when it is re-laid under the procedures that apply to scrutiny of documents subject to parliamentary control.

The Committee notes that the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 requires the Commission to consult the Scottish Parliament on the draft Code of Practice.

The Committee was concerned and disappointed that the approach to fulfilling this requirement was initially considered by the Commission to be met by information about the consultation being included in the Commission's newsletter to Members.

We are clear that a requirement to consult the Parliament should be interpreted to mean that the Parliament is consulted as an institution with an opportunity for the relevant Committee to offer a considered response on relevant matters.

In this instance we have been able to agree a solution to ensure that the Committee has had an opportunity to consider the draft Code. The formal mechanism for approval of the Code will be re-started in time to allow it to be brought into effect before the start of the regulated period, subject to the Parliament's approval being confirmed at the end of the 40-

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Contact: Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email [SPPA.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:SPPA.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

day period. We welcome the Scottish Government's cooperation in being able to achieve this.

We are keen to work with the Commission to ensure that we can provide input to support the discharge of the Commission's statutory functions as the body charged with overseeing elections and promoting confidence in our democratic processes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Whitfield', written in a cursive style.

**Martin Whitfield MSP**  
**Convener**