

29 September 2021

Mr Ian Bruce
Acting Ethical Standards Commissioner
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HE

Dear Mr Bruce

Consultation: Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies in Scotland and the draft Code

Thank you for your email of 14 July 2021 seeking views on your recommendations for revising the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies in Scotland and on the draft Code as revised.

When I wrote to you in November last year, I referred to our audit work and evidence which confirms that board members have a strong bearing on the effectiveness of the governance of public bodies and organisational performance. I also highlighted the issue of equality and diversity and that, in my view, wider representation on boards should help progress towards a fairer and more equal society.

I have reviewed your recommendations for revisions to the Code, and the draft revised Code. I am pleased to note these fit well with my previous response, recognising the value that diverse perspectives and insights bring to boards. I also welcome the emphasis on arrangements for monitoring and evidencing diversity, and the focus on transparency and accountability more generally.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Boyle
Auditor General for Scotland