



CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

APPOINTMENT OF STANDARDS OFFICER

Report by Chief Officer, Integration Joint Board

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that the IJB propose a Standards Officer for the Integration Joint Board as required by the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000 for approval by the Standards Commission for Scotland.

COMPETENCE

- 1.1 This Report is concerned entirely with constitutional matters.

SUMMARY

- 2.1 The IJB is a devolved public body for the purposes of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”). The requirements imposed by the 2000 Act, and Codes of Conduct prepared in respect thereof, apply to members of the Integration Joint Board as they do to other members of devolved public bodies (including local authorities). In particular the IJB’s Standing Orders oblige members of the IJB to comply with the Standards in Public Life – model Code of Conduct for members of devolved public bodies produced by the Standards Commission for Scotland.
- 2.2 Section 7(1) of the 2000 Act obliges every devolved public body to set up, maintain and make available for public inspection a register of such interests as, under the members’ code, its members, are required to register. In addition, regulations made under the 2000 Act require devolved public bodies to appoint a Standards Officer for the purpose of carrying out the duties of that body under Section 7(1) of the 2000 Act or where that body has no employees, the person approved by the Standards Commission for that purpose.
- 2.3 Lesley-Ann McDonald had been the Head of Executive Office of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the IJB’s Standards Officer until she retired in September of this year. The IJB will now have to consider the appointment of a new Standards Officer. The arrangement to use the Head of Executive Office has worked well for the IJB and Ms Macdonald proved to be an excellent appointment – and it is therefore recommended that the same arrangements obtain into the future. At this juncture, however, the post of Head of Executive Office has still to be filled and as such the Chief Executive of the Comhairle, who also acts as Depute Monitoring Officer for the Comhairle, and Mr. Tim Langley, Solicitor within Legal Services in the Comhairle, will support the IJB in respect of the aforementioned functions. The Comhairle itself will consider the appointment of a Monitoring Officer at its meeting on 2 October 2018, and if the IJB is minded to consider the appointment of the Comhairle’s Monitoring Officer as its own Standards Officer, the Chief Executive of the Comhairle will advise Members that a request has been made to that effect.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the IJB agree:**
- (a) **to request that when the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar appoints a new Monitoring Officer, that that person also be appointed to the role of Standards Officer to Cùram is Slàinte nan Eilean Siar;**

and

 - (b) **that the Chief Officer will seek the Standards Commission’s approval for the appointment in that event.**

Contact Officer: Ron Culley, Chief Officer

END

