



## BUSINESS PLAN for 2009 to 2011

### **Statutory functions**

The Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner is appointed by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body with the agreement of the Scottish Parliament<sup>1</sup>.

The Commissioner's functions are to investigate complaints about the conduct of members of the Parliament and to report on the outcome of these investigations to the Parliament.

### **Aims of the Office**

The aims of the office are to provide an excellent and effective investigative service to the Parliament and to do so as efficiently and economically as possible, all with a view to securing high standards of conduct by MSPs and, consequently, public trust and confidence in their elected members.

### **Objectives and Priorities**

The following objectives and priorities have been set for the period of the plan:-

#### **Case handling**

To provide an investigative system based on fairness and thoroughness and to do so as efficiently and responsively as practicable.

To meet or exceed all the timescale requirements of the 2002 Act regarding individual cases.

#### **Accessibility**

To provide and develop a service that is readily and easily accessible to members of the public and to MSPs.

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 1 of the Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner Act 2002

To review the performance of staff providing administrative support to the Commissioner and the Office's response to enquiries from members of the public.

To keep the web-site under review and up-to-date.

To undertake appropriate engagements to speak about the role of the Commissioner.

### Accountability

To be accountable to the Parliament for the performance of the service provided by the office.

To respond effectively and constructively to any requests by the Parliament for views and comments in relation to matters affecting ethical standards in Scotland.

To lay an Annual Report before Parliament.

To provide quarterly statistics to the SPCB.

### Best Value

To deliver the service to high standards based on the principles of best value and improvement.

To provide leadership in and commitment to high ethical standards in public life in Scotland.

To ensure the office operates under the principles of sound governance and financial management.

### Structural Change

To make a positive and constructive contribution to the Parliament's consideration of the Review of SPCB Supported Bodies Committee Bill relating to the reorganisation of supported bodies.

To provide written or oral evidence to the Bill Committee if so requested.

To manage any change through the passing of any statutory provisions to give affect thereto as seamlessly and as efficiently as possible.

In consultation with the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland to prepare an operational plan for the proposed Ethical Standards Commission.

### **Budget**

The budget for 2009/10 is £90,000. Every endeavour will be made to ensure that expenditure does not exceed budget. The budget for 2010/11 will be £90,000 (subject to Parliamentary approval).

### **Plan Period**

This plan covers the period from 2 April 2009 to 31 March 2011.

### **Review**

This business plan will be kept under regular review and will be reviewed at least every year.

Stuart Allan  
Scottish Parliamentary Standards Commissioner  
44 Drumsheugh Gardens  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7SW

Phone: 0300 011 0550

Email: [Standards.Commissioner@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Standards.Commissioner@scottish.parliament.uk)

Web: [www.spsc.co.uk](http://www.spsc.co.uk)