



Report

Appointment of Standards Officer

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

11 March 2016

Executive Summary

1. The Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests) Regulations 2003 requires the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to appoint a Standards Officer. This officer is responsible for advising and guiding members of the Board on issues of conduct and propriety. The Standards Officer will also act as the liaison officer between the IJB and the Standards Commission. The Standards Commission will also be required to endorse any appointment and guidance is awaited on the mechanism to do so.

Recommendations

2. To appoint Gavin King, Committee Services Manager, the City of Edinburgh Council as the Standards Officer for the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.

Background

3. The Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests) Regulations 2003 requires the Integration Joint Board (IJB) to appoint a Standards Officer.
4. The Standards Commission is an independent body whose responsibility is to encourage high ethical standards in public life. It does this through the publication and enforcement of Codes of Conduct.
5. The Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland investigates complaints about the conduct of MSPs, local authority councillors and members of public bodies. The Commissioner also monitors how people are appointed to the boards of specified public bodies.

Main report

6. The Standards Commission has recently provided guidance on the role of a Standards Officer. The following was highlighted as a duty or responsibility:

- 6.1. Ensuring appropriate training is provided to Board members on the Ethical Standards Framework and the Code of Conduct.
 - 6.2. Contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by providing advice and support to members.
 - 6.3. Ensuring the IJB keeps a Register of Interest and a Gifts and Hospitality Register.
 - 6.4. Ensure there is a consistent approach to obtaining and recording declarations of interest.
 - 6.5. An investigative role if local resolution is appropriate in respect of complaints or concerns made about a Member's conduct.
 - 6.6. Report to the IJB when necessary on the Code of Conduct.
 - 6.7. Act as the principal liaison officer with the Standards Commission.,
 - 6.8. Act as the principal liaison officer with the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland and assist where necessary in connection with the investigation of complaints against a Member.
7. The Standards Commission has confirmed that it will be required to endorse any appointment of a Standards Officer by the IJB and it is currently consulting with the Scottish Government on the mechanism to do so.
 8. In the meantime The Standards Commission has indicated that an officer should be identified to fulfil for the IJB the functions described at paragraphs 6.1-6.8. It is therefore recommended that the IJB appoint a Standards Officer. The Standards Commission will consider and, subject to being content, ratify the appointment following confirmation of the process from the Scottish Government.

Key risks

9. Elements of the work of the Standards Officer are requirements of the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000. The IJB and its members are required to comply with this legislation.

Financial implications

10. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Involving people

11. The Standards Commission recommends that Standards Officers develop relationships with other Standards Officers to share knowledge, experience and information.

Background reading/references

Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000
The Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests)
Regulations 2003
[Standards Commission for Scotland](#) (website)

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Links to priorities in strategic plan

