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The Rt Hon. Alex Salmond MSP
By email Alex.Salmond.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



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Dear Alex

As you may be aware, Liz Lochhead's term as National Poet for Scotland recently came to an end and so I would like to invite you to take part in the process to decide on the appointment of her successor.

Liz's tenure has been marked by enormous energy, many poems and hundreds of performances promoting Scotland, poetry and literacy. A book of her work as National Poet is to be published in spring 2016 to mark her many achievements. She will be a hard act to follow and I hope that you can join in the decision as you did last time.

I have asked Dr Robyn Marsack, Director of the Scottish Poetry Library, to consult a panel of experts from across the literature sector to provide us with a shortlist of five poets who could serve in this role

I would be delighted if you could attend at Bute House on Tuesday 23rd of February 2016 from 13.00 to 14.30 to make the decision from a shortlist.

You would receive the shortlist a week ahead of the meeting. Dr Marsack will also present a summary of each of the poets' work at this meeting to help our decision. This timing should enable a decision and announcement ahead of the Scottish election.

I would be grateful if you could contact my diary secretary, [REDACTED] who is contactable on email [REDACTED] or on telephone [REDACTED] to confirm your availability.

NICOLA STURGEON