



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## COMMITTEE ON THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS

### MINUTES

2nd Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Monday 22 June 2020

Present:

Dr Alasdair Allan  
Donald Cameron  
Angela Constance  
Alison Johnstone  
Maureen Watt

Jackie Baillie  
Alex Cole-Hamilton  
Linda Fabiani (Convener)  
Margaret Mitchell (Deputy Convener)

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 3 in private.
2. **Approach to the Committee's inquiry:** The Committee considered matters in relation to the inquiry.
3. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee agreed to work through the inquiry in three phases:

The Committee agreed to work through the inquiry in three phases:

- Firstly, the actions taken in relation to the policy on handling harassment complaints involving current and former ministers. This includes—
  - the development of the policy; and
  - the handling of the complaints
- Secondly, the judicial review
- Thirdly, the actions taken in relation to the Scottish Ministerial Code

The Committee also agreed to invite written submissions from a provisional list of witnesses. The Committee agreed to commence oral evidence taking with the

Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government, Leslie Evans, in the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> August.

The Committee also agreed to:

- delegate authority to the Convener and Deputy Convener to sign off the final terms of the letters inviting written evidence;
- seek from the Scottish Government a written statement and records relating to the Ministerial Code aspect of the Committee's inquiry by the end of summer recess;
- take agenda items to review the evidence heard throughout its inquiry in private;
- the terms of its [data processing statement](#); and
- delegate the authorisation of any future witness expenses to the Convener.

The Committee also agreed to consider further whether to require some or all witnesses to give evidence under oath to the Committee.

The Committee also agreed to publish a [written statement](#) from the Convener setting out, in more detail, the Committee's approach to the inquiry.

The meeting closed at 3.34 pm.

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