DELEGATED POWERS AND LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

6th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Tuesday 27 February 2018

Present:

Neil Findlay
Alison Harris
Stuart McMillan (Deputy Convener)
Graham Simpson (Convener)
David Torrance

The meeting opened at 10.30 am.

1. Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed to take items 4, 5 and 6 in private.

2. Instruments subject to affirmative procedure: The Committee agreed that no points arose on the following—

   Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2018 [draft].

3. Instruments subject to negative procedure: The Committee agreed to draw the attention of the Parliament to the following—

   Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/69);

   and that no points arose on the following—

   Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/34);
   Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (Midlothian Council) Designation Order 2018 (SSI 2018/60);
   Parking Attendants (Wearing of Uniforms) (Midlothian Council Parking Area) Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/61);
   Road Traffic (Parking Adjudicators) (Midlothian Council) Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/62);
   Non-Domestic Rates (Telecommunication Installations) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/63);
Non-Domestic Rates (Renewable Energy Generation Relief) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/64); Non-Domestic Rates (Day Nursery Relief) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/65); National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/68).

In relation to the Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018 (SSI 2018/69), the Convener proposed that the Committee considers that the Regulations raise a devolution issue and should be drawn to the attention of the Parliament on that basis. The proposal was agreed to by division (For 3, Against 2, Abstentions 0).

The Committee also agreed to return to the issue of consolidation of the Regulations at a later date, once an update has been received from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution.

4. Prescription (Scotland) Bill (in private): The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and agreed (a) to issue a call for written evidence on the Bill; (b) a list of targeted stakeholders and communications strategy; (c) the timetable for Stage 1 consideration; and (d) to delegate to the Convener responsibility for arranging to pay expenses to witnesses under the SPCB witness expense scheme. The Committee also agreed to hold a discussion in private at the end of each meeting on the oral evidence heard and to consider all draft reports on the Bill in private.

5. Planning (Scotland) Bill (in private): The Committee considered further the delegated powers provisions in this Bill at Stage 1 and agreed to consider a draft report at its meeting on 13 March 2018.

6. Social Security (Scotland) Bill (in private): The Committee agreed to note the correspondence from the Minister for Social Security in advance of further scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 2.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am.

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