



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

9th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 20 April 2017

Present:

Clare Adamson (Convener)
Emma Harper
Daniel Johnson
Alexander Stewart

Tom Arthur
Patrick Harvie (Deputy Convener)
John Scott

The meeting opened at 9.45 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Emma Harper declared that she was the Parliamentary Liaison Officer for Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed that its review of the format of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament should be taken in private at future meetings.
3. **Cross-Party Groups:** The Committee considered applications for recognition from three Cross-Party Groups, and took evidence from—
 - Richard Leonard, Co-Convener of the proposed CPG on WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality);
 - Colin Smyth, Member of the proposed CPG on Inflammatory Bowel Disease;
 - John Mason, Convener of the proposed CPG on Freedom of Religion or Belief..
4. **Commission on Parliamentary Reform:** The Committee took evidence from—
 - John McCormick, Chair, and John Finnie, Commission member,

Commission on Parliamentary Reform.

5. **Cross-Party Group - approval:** The Committee agreed to accord recognition to the proposed Cross-Party Groups on WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality), Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Freedom of Religion or Belief.
6. **Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 (in private):** The Committee agreed a draft report and draft Standing Order rule changes.

The meeting closed at 10.52 am.

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