



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Equal Opportunities Committee

Thursday 16 June 2016

Session 5



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Thursday 16 June 2016

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2016, Session 5

CONVENER

*Christina McKelvie (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (LD)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Jeremy Balfour (Lothian) (Con)

*Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley) (SNP)

*Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Lab)

David Torrance (Kirkcaldy) (SNP)

*Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Claire Menzies

LOCATION

The Adam Smith Room (CR5)

Scottish Parliament

Equal Opportunities Committee

Thursday 16 June 2016

[Mary Fee opened the meeting at 10:00]

Interests

Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Lab): Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the first meeting in session 5 of the Equal Opportunities Committee. I remind everyone present to turn off mobile phones, as they can interfere with the sound system. We have received apologies from David Torrance.

Agenda item 1 allows members to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee's work. I have no relevant interests to declare, but I refer members to my entry in the register of members' interests.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (LD): I have been a long-time member of Amnesty International and I was a past convener of Together—the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights. Before I was elected, I sat on the SNAP—Scottish national action plan for human rights—action leadership panel.

Christina McKelvie (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (SNP): I have no relevant interests in relation to this committee, but I refer people to my entry in the register of members' interests.

Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Con): I have no relevant interests in relation to this committee, but I refer people to my entry in the register of members' interests.

Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley) (SNP): Similarly, I have no interests that are relevant to this committee, but I refer members to the voluntary section in my declaration in the register of members' interests.

Jeremy Balfour (Lothian) (Con): Same again. I have no interests that are relevant to this committee, but I refer people to my voluntary interests in my entry in the register of members' interests.

Mary Fee: Thank you, everyone.

Convener

10:01

Mary Fee: Agenda item 2 is the choice of a convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as convener of the committee. I invite members to nominate one of their number for the post of convener.

Willie Coffey: I nominate my friend and colleague, Christina McKelvie, to convene the committee for this session of the Parliament.

Mary Fee: Thank you, Willie. I am happy to endorse that nomination. There are no other nominations.

Christina McKelvie was chosen as convener.

Mary Fee: I congratulate Christina McKelvie on her appointment as convener.

The Convener (Christina McKelvie): Thank you very much.

Mary Fee: I will now remove myself from this seat and allow Christina to come and sit here.

The Convener: Thank you for choosing me to be the convener of the committee. I look forward to working with you, especially since the committee may have an extended remit, in which many of us have a keen interest.

Deputy Convener

10:02

The Convener: Agenda item 3 is the choice of a deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Liberal Democrats are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of the committee. I understand that Alex Cole-Hamilton is his party's nomination for the post.

Alex Cole-Hamilton: I am the only Liberal Democrat on the committee, so that seems fair.

Alex Cole-Hamilton was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: I congratulate you, Alex, and I look forward to working with you.

Alex Cole-Hamilton: I very much look forward to working with you.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:03

The Convener: Agenda item 4 is a decision on whether to take in private item 5, which is consideration of our work programme. It is the normal process to take such items in private, as it allows us to have a really good conversation about what we want to do with the work programme. Does the committee agree to take item 5 in private?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: That concludes the public part of today's meeting. We will meet again on 30 June, which is the last day of this parliamentary term. We may have some very interesting agenda items for that meeting; we will inform you in due course, once we have them confirmed.

10:03

Meeting continued in private until 10:25.

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