

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday 5 February 2002
(Morning)

Session 1

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

3rd Meeting 2002, Session 1

CONVENER

*Kate Maclean (Dundee West) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Kay Ullrich (West of Scotland) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Mrs Lyndsay McIntosh (Central Scotland) (Con)

*Mr Michael McMahon (Hamilton North and Bellshill) (Lab)

*Mr Gil Paterson (Central Scotland) (SNP)

Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab)

Tommy Sheridan (Glasgow) (SSP)

*Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab)

*Mr Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) (LD)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Jim Johnston

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Richard Walsh

ASSISTANT CLERK

Roy McMahon

LOCATION

Committee Room 1

Scottish Parliament

Equal Opportunities Committee

Tuesday 5 February 2002

(Morning)

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:00*]

Items in Private

The Convener (Kate Maclean): Welcome to the Equal Opportunities Committee. In particular, I welcome Jim Johnston, who has taken over from Lee Bridges as clerk to the committee. I am sure that he will enjoy our work, especially as we usually manage to finish our meetings early.

I have received apologies from Tommy Sheridan.

Item 1 is to ask the committee to agree to take in private item 4, under which we shall discuss a draft report, and item 6, which concerns our future work plan. Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Sorry, the agenda has been revised because Margaret Curran is unable to be here, as she must attend a funeral. We had a lot of interest in the taking stock item and we have received submissions from a range of organisations. I am a bit worried that our work plan is becoming very busy, so I suggest that we meet next Tuesday to take evidence from the minister.

Mr Gil Paterson (Central Scotland) (SNP): Let me quickly consult my diary. I would like to attend next Tuesday, but could the programme take account of the Procedures Committee meeting, which takes place at 9.30 on that day?

The Convener: I was going to suggest that we start at 10.30, but 11 o'clock has also been suggested.

Mr Paterson: I would be grateful for that.

The Convener: Are members happy that we meet next Tuesday at 11 o'clock?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: The items that we have agreed to take in private are now items 3 and 5—I am sorry; I was looking at the old agenda before.

Item 4 of the revised agenda concerns our gender equality and best value inquiry. As we have received only one curriculum vitae—albeit a good one—I suggest that the committee should defer that item so that we can have another trawl

and possibly have more CVs for the committee to consider. I am in no way saying that the application that we have received is not good.

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab): Do the time scales allow for that?

The Convener: Yes. The time scales allow us to consider the item at the next meeting. Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

Budget Process 2003-04

The Convener: Item 2 is on the budget process. A report has been produced. Do members have any comments?

If members have no questions, does the committee agree to the proposals for budget scrutiny?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Does the committee also agree to delegate authority for further work to the clerks?

Members indicated agreement.

10:03

Meeting continued in private until 10:47.

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