

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday 1 October 2002
(Morning)

Session 1

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

15th 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)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Mr Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Con)

Michael Matheson (Central Scotland) (SNP)

Nora Radcliffe (Gordon) (LD)

Karen Whitefield (Airdrie and Shotts) (Lab)

*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 1 October 2002

(Morning)

[THE DEPUTY CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:02*]

Items in Private

The Deputy Convener (Kay Ullrich): Good morning, folks. In spite of the fact that traffic into Edinburgh seems to be in chaos this morning, we appear to be quorate.

We have received apologies from Gil Paterson. Jamie Stone has indicated that he will be late. Kate Maclean is delayed in traffic and is likely to be late too. Members will just have to make do with me for the time being.

Is it all right by members if we take items 3 and 4 in private? The items concern draft reports that the committee has not yet signed off.

Members indicated agreement.

Budget Process 2003-04

The Deputy Convener: Members have a copy of paper EO/02/15/01, which outlines the options for stage 2 of the budget process 2003-04. I ask members to note that we have not yet received a response to the stage 1 budget report. We expect to receive it by the end of the week and the clerks will circulate it to members.

Do members agree that the clerks should draft a response to the Finance Committee for inclusion in its stage 2 report, which we will consider at our meeting on 29 October?

Members indicated agreement.

The Deputy Convener: I ask members to confirm their availability for the equality proofing budget seminar that is to be held with the Scottish Executive. The proposed date is 23 October. So far, Gil Paterson, Michael McMahon and Jamie Stone have confirmed that they can attend on that date. Members will note that the date falls during the recess. An alternative date of 30 October before 11 am has been suggested.

Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab): I am on holiday on 23 October.

The Deputy Convener: I am on holiday too.

Mrs Lyndsay McIntosh (Central Scotland) (Con): So am I, but 30 October is all right for me.

Mr Michael McMahon (Hamilton North and Bellshill) (Lab): The first date is during the recess.

The Deputy Convener: Shall we go for 30 October instead?

Mr McMahon: That would be fine.

The Deputy Convener: Or do people prefer 23 October?

Mr McMahon: No, 30 October is fine.

The Deputy Convener: It seems that 30 October would be more suitable for us all. I ask the clerks to make arrangements for the seminar on Wednesday 30 October before 11 am.

Mrs McIntosh: That clashes with a meeting of the Social Justice Committee.

The Deputy Convener: Oh.

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab): How much time will be needed?

The Deputy Convener: The seminar will start at 9 am and will last for a full morning. Is Elaine Smith suggesting that it should start at 10 am? The clerks have suggested a 9 am start.

Elaine Smith: You said "before 11 am", so I assumed that the seminar would have to be finished by 11 am.

The Deputy Convener: That is how it looked to me, too.

Elaine Smith: I had visions of a 7 am start.

The Deputy Convener: No. The seminar is to last for a full morning. It is likely that it will clash with a meeting of the Standards Committee and, as Lyndsay McIntosh said, it will clash with a meeting of the Social Justice Committee. However, I think that we should give priority to the seminar.

10:05

Meeting continued in private until 11:00.

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