



OFFICIAL REPORT  
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

# Writers to the Signet Dependants' Annuity Fund Amendment (Scotland) Bill Committee

Wednesday 6 September 2017

Session 5



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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**Wednesday 6 September 2017**

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**WRITERS TO THE SIGNET DEPENDANTS' ANNUITY FUND AMENDMENT  
(SCOTLAND) BILL COMMITTEE  
1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2017, Session 5**

**CONVENER**

\*Alison Harris (Central Scotland) (Con)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*Tom Arthur (Renfrewshire South) (SNP)

\*Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Lab)

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Emma Johnston

**LOCATION**

The Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3)



# Scottish Parliament

## Writers to the Signet Dependants' Annuity Fund Amendment (Scotland) Bill Committee

*Wednesday 6 September 2017*

*[Mary Fee opened the meeting at 10:00]*

### Interests

**Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Lab):** Good morning and welcome to the first meeting of the Writers to the Signet Dependants' Annuity Fund Amendment (Scotland) Bill Committee. I remind all those present, including members, that mobile phones should be turned off.

The first item on our agenda is the declaration of interests and of impartiality. In accordance with section 3 of the code of conduct, I invite members to declare any interests relevant to the remit of the committee. I remind members that declarations should be brief but sufficiently detailed to make clear to any listener the nature of the interest.

In accordance with rule 9A.5.4A of the standing orders, I also invite members to declare that they will act impartially and will base decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to the committee. Members have been issued with a brief procedural note on what the declarations should include.

I can confirm that I do not have any declarable interests that are relevant to the remit of the committee, and I declare that I will act impartially and will base decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to the committee.

I invite Alison Harris and Tom Arthur to declare their interests and make their declarations of impartiality.

**Alison Harris (Central Scotland) (Con):** I have no declarable interests, and I declare that I will act impartially as a member of the committee and will base decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to the committee.

**Tom Arthur (Renfrewshire South) (SNP):** I can confirm that I have no declarable interests relevant to the remit of the committee. However, I take this opportunity to remind the committee that I am the parliamentary liaison officer to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

I declare that I will act impartially as a member of the committee and will base decisions solely on

the evidence and information that is provided to the committee.

## Convener

10:02

**Mary Fee:** Our second item is to choose a convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party are eligible for nomination as convener of the committee. I am pleased to announce that Alison Harris is the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party nominee for the post. Do we agree to choose Alison Harris as our convener?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

*Alison Harris was chosen as convener.*

**Mary Fee:** I congratulate Alison Harris on her appointment. I briefly suspend the meeting to hand over the chair for the remainder of the proceedings.

10:03

*Meeting suspended.*

10:03

*On resuming—*

## Decisions on Taking Business in Private

**The Convener (Alison Harris):** Thank you, Mary.

Agenda item 3 is to decide whether to take agenda item 4 and issues relating to our preliminary stage report in private.

Agenda item 4 is to consider our approach to the scrutiny of the bill at the preliminary stage and agree our work programme. The outcome of the discussion will be publicly available when it is published on the bill page on the Parliament's website.

Do we agree to take agenda item 4 in private?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** We will also consider whether any future discussions of issues relating to our preliminary stage report, including consideration of our draft preliminary stage report, should be taken in private at future meetings. Do we agree to consider issues for our preliminary stage report and our draft report in private at future meetings?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** We now move to agenda item 4, for which, as agreed, we move into private session.

10:03

*Meeting continued in private until 10:07.*

This is the final edition of the *Official Report* of this meeting. It is part of the Scottish Parliament *Official Report* archive and has been sent for legal deposit.

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Published in Edinburgh by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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