



**OFFICIAL REPORT**  
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

# Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

**Thursday 28 September 2017**

**Session 5**



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



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**Thursday 28 September 2017**

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**STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2017, Session 5**

**CONVENER**

\*Clare Adamson (Motherwell and Wishaw) (SNP)

**DEPUTY CONVENER**

Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Green)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*Tom Arthur (Renfrewshire South) (SNP)

\*Jamie Halcro Johnston (Highlands and Islands) (Con)

\*Emma Harper (South Scotland) (SNP)

\*Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Lab)

\*Alexander Stewart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Douglas Wands

**LOCATION**

The Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3)



# Scottish Parliament

10:07

*Meeting continued in private until 10:18.*

## Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

*Thursday 28 September 2017**[The Convener opened the meeting in private at  
10:00]*

10:06

*Meeting continued in public.*

### Complaint

**The Convener (Clare Adamson):** We move to agenda item 2 of the 18th meeting in 2017 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. This morning, the committee has been considering a complaint about a member of the Scottish Parliament. On behalf of the committee, I will now read a statement, which sets out the committee's findings.

The committee has considered a complaint from Christian Allard about Alexander Burnett MSP. The complaint is that Alexander Burnett failed to declare his registered interests when submitting parliamentary questions on 4 August 2016.

The committee is unanimous in the decisions reached on the complaint. First, it agrees with the findings in fact and conclusion of the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. Secondly, it considers that the breach justifies the imposition of a sanction on Alexander Burnett.

The final decision on whether to issue a sanction lies with the Parliament. The committee will recommend that Alexander Burnett be prohibited from lodging parliamentary questions for written answer for a period of two weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the committee, to remind all MSPs that they are obliged by law and by the "Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament" to make the appropriate written and oral declarations if they have a declarable interest, before taking part in any proceedings of the Parliament.

Full details of the complaint and the commissioner's investigation of it will be included in the committee's report, which will be published this afternoon.

Item 3, which is consideration of our draft report, will take place in private.



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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