

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday 25 November 2003
(Morning)

Session 2

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

8th Meeting 2003, Session 2

CONVENER

*Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Margaret Smith (Edinburgh West) (LD)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Shiona Baird (North East Scotland) (Green)
Frances Curran (West of Scotland) (SSP)
*Marlyn Glen (North East Scotland) (Lab)
*Marilyn Livingstone (Kirkcaldy) (Lab)
*Campbell Martin (West of Scotland) (SNP)
Mrs Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con)
*Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Lab)
Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Green)
Carolyn Leckie (Central Scotland) (SSP)
Tricia Marwick (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP)
Mr Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Jim Johnston

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Ruth Cooper

ASSISTANT CLERK

Roy McMahon

LOCATION

The Chamber

Scottish Parliament

Equal Opportunities Committee

Tuesday 25 November 2003

(Morning)

[THE CONVENER opened the meeting at 10:04]

Items in Private

The Convener (Cathy Peattie): Good morning and welcome to the eighth meeting of the Equal Opportunities Committee in the second session of Parliament. I have received apologies from Frances Curran and Mrs Nanette Milne.

Item 3 concerns an approach paper and includes consideration of possible witnesses. Item 4 concerns a draft response and item 5 concerns proposed lines of questioning. Do members agree to discuss items 3, 4 and 5 in private?

Members indicated agreement.

Gender Recognition Bill (UK Legislation)

10:05

The Convener: We move on to item 2. Do members agree to take evidence on the Gender Recognition Bill at our meeting of 9 December?

Members indicated agreement.

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab): Do you know when the Sewel motion on the bill might be lodged?

The Convener: As far as the clerks and I know, the bill will be included in the Queen's speech this week. I have spoken to the appropriate minister, who does not yet know what the situation will be, but rather than have a Sewel motion come up too quickly for us to be able to react, we need to ensure that the work that we want to do on the issue is done.

Elaine Smith: That is fine.

The Convener: Do members agree that the clerks should liaise with the Equality Network to finalise the evidence-taking session?

Members indicated agreement.

Margaret Smith (Edinburgh West) (LD): One organisation that is mentioned in the Scottish Parliament information centre's briefing paper is Press for Change. I think that it might be a United Kingdom based rather than a Scotland-based organisation, but Press for Change has always done a lot of work on gender recognition. It is the main campaigning organisation at Westminster on the issue, so it might be worth checking with the Equality Network whether Press for Change has a locus in Scotland.

The Convener: Okay—we will do that.

10:07

Meeting continued in private until 11:06.

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