



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Committee on the Scottish Government Handling of Harassment Complaints

Thursday 28 March 2019

Session 5



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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**COMMITTEE ON THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF HARASSMENT
COMPLAINTS**

3rd Meeting 2019, Session 5

CONVENER

*Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Con)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Dr Alasdair Allan (Na h-Eileanan an Iar) (SNP)

*Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Lab)

*Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Con)

*Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (LD)

*Angela Constance (Almond Valley) (SNP)

*Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Green)

*Maureen Watt (Aberdeen South and North Kincardine) (SNP)

*attended

LOCATION

The Adam Smith Room (CR5)

Scottish Parliament

Committee on the Scottish Government Handling of Harassment Complaints

Thursday 28 March 2019

[The Convener opened the meeting at 17:15]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Linda Fabiani): Welcome to the third meeting in 2019 of the Committee on the Scottish Government Handling of Harassment Complaints. I ask all those present to turn off any electronic devices that might interfere with proceedings.

Under agenda item 1, I ask members to agree to take item 2 in private, to allow us to consider a letter from the permanent secretary.

Members indicated agreement.

17:15

Meeting continued in private.

18:15

On resuming—

Approach to the Committee's Inquiry

The Convener: Agenda item 3 concerns the approach to the committee's inquiry. We have just had a long discussion that centred very much on a letter from the Scottish Government, dated 22 March, in response to the committee's letter of 26 February 2019. We have considered the response, and we will write back to the Scottish Government for clarification of some points and some additional reassurance on some points. That letter will be published on the committee's website later this evening.

The committee also very much welcomed the statement that was made by the First Minister in Parliament on 17 January 2019 regarding co-operation, openness and transparency, and we have decided to write to the First Minister. The letter to the First Minister will reflect the statement that she made and will be relevant to the preservation of evidence that might be relevant to the remit of this inquiry.

The committee also agreed that its next meeting will be on 9 May.

Meeting closed at 18:17.

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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