



**OFFICIAL REPORT**  
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

# **Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland (Amendment) Bill Committee**

**Tuesday 26 November 2019**

**Session 5**



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



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**SOLICITORS IN THE SUPREME COURTS OF SCOTLAND (AMENDMENT) BILL  
COMMITTEE**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2019, Session 5**

**CONVENER**

\*Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale)

**DEPUTY CONVENER**

\*Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Con)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Lab)

\*John Mason (Glasgow Shettleston) (SNP)

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Felicity Hollands

**LOCATION**

The Sir Alexander Fleming Room



## Scottish Parliament

### Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland (Amendment) Bill Committee

*Tuesday 26 November 2019*

*[Christine Grahame opened the meeting at 10:30]*

#### Declarations

**Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) (SNP):** Good morning, and welcome to the first meeting of the Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland (Amendment) Bill Committee. I remind all who are present, including members, that mobile phones and tablets should be switched to silent. No apologies have been received.

As I am unfortunately the oldest member of the committee, I will chair the first item on our agenda, which is the declaration of interests and impartiality. In accordance with section 3 of the “Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament”, I invite members to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee’s remit. I remind members that declarations should be brief, as I know they will be, 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 invite each member to declare that he or she will act impartially and will base decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to the committee.

My declaration is that I have no interests to declare and that I will act impartially in my capacity as a member of the Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland (Amendment) Bill Committee and will base decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to the committee.

**Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Con):** I have no relevant interests to declare, and I declare that I will act impartially in my capacity as a member of the Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland (Amendment) Bill Committee and will base decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to the committee.

**John Mason (Glasgow Shettleston) (SNP):** I have no relevant interests to declare. I declare that I will act impartially in my capacity as a member of the Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland (Amendment) Bill Committee and will base

decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to the committee.

**Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Lab):** I have no formal interests to declare, but I make the committee aware that my wife is a practising solicitor, although she is not a member of the society that is concerned with the bill. I declare that I will act impartially in my capacity as a member of the Solicitors in the Supreme Courts of Scotland (Amendment) Bill Committee and will base decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to the committee.

## Convener

10:32

**Christine Grahame:** Item 2 is the choice of a convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as convener of this committee. I am pleased to announce that I am the Scottish National Party's nominee for the post.

*Christine Grahame was chosen as convener.*

**The Convener (Christine Grahame):** Thank you very much. I shall chair for the remainder of the proceedings.

## Deputy Convener

10:32

**The Convener:** Item 3 is the choice of a deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of the committee. I understand that Bill Bowman is the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party's nominee for the post.

*Bill Bowman was chosen as deputy convener.*

**The Convener:** I congratulate Bill Bowman on his appointment and look forward to working with him, and with all other members.

## **Decision on Taking Business in Private**

10:33

**The Convener:** Item 4 is to decide whether to take in private item 5, on the committee's approach to scrutiny of the bill at preliminary stage, as well as future discussions about the preliminary stage report and issues relating to the report.

Do members agree to take in private item 5 and future discussions about the preliminary stage report and issues relating to it?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** Thank you. The public business of the committee is now concluded.

10:33

*Meeting continued in private until 11:07.*





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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