



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

Wednesday 23 June 2021

Session 6



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2021, Session 6

CONVENER

*Joe FitzPatrick (Dundee City West) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Maggie Chapman (North East Scotland) (Green)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Karen Adam (Banffshire and Buchan Coast) (SNP)

*Pam Duncan-Glancy (Glasgow) (Lab)

*Pam Gosal (West Scotland) (Con)

*Fulton MacGregor (Coatbridge and Chryston) (SNP)

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

*attended

LOCATION

Virtual Meeting

Scottish Parliament

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

Wednesday 23 June 2021

[Alexander Stewart opened the meeting at 09:30]

Interests

Alexander Stewart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con): Good morning, and welcome to the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee's first meeting in session 6. As the oldest member of the committee, I have the pleasure of convening the meeting for the first two agenda items. I welcome all members and I look forward to working with them. I remind all individuals present to ensure that their mobile phones are switched to silent.

Agenda item 1 is for each of us to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee's work. I will go first, and I have no relevant interests to declare.

Karen Adam (Banffshire and Buchan Coast) (SNP): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Maggie Chapman (North East Scotland) (Green): I am still employed by Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre, which might be relevant to the programme of work that we will discuss later, but that employment will end on 30 June.

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Glasgow) (Lab): I have a couple of interests to declare. I worked for Public Health Scotland until 11 May—my employment ended when I was elected to the Parliament. Although they are voluntary entries in the register of interests, it is important to mention that I served on the board of Engender Scotland for three years until the end of last year and that I was a policy officer for Inclusion Scotland between 2009 and 2015.

Joe FitzPatrick (Dundee City West) (SNP): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Pam Gosal (West Scotland) (Con): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Fulton MacGregor (Coatbridge and Chryston) (SNP): I alert members to my voluntary entry in the register of interests to show that I am a registered social worker with the Scottish Social Services Council. I was a practising social worker before my election in 2016 and I have maintained my registration since then.

Convener

09:33

Alexander Stewart: Item 2 is the choosing of convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as convener, and I understand that Joe FitzPatrick is the party's nominee.

Joe FitzPatrick was chosen as convener.

Alexander Stewart: Congratulations, Joe.

The Convener (Joe FitzPatrick): I thank everyone for supporting my nomination to be convener and I look forward to working with all the members over the coming years. This is one of the most important committees in the Parliament. It has shown the benefits of devolution and, particularly during the previous parliamentary session in the difficult times of Covid, it showed the importance of engaging with the population. I was a member of the committee only towards the end of the previous session, but I think that Alexander Stewart was a member throughout it, so he is aware of the engagement that the committee undertook, which we should continue.

The committee's remit has expanded, which is a good thing, although it means that we will have challenges in managing our time. I look forward to working with all the members in the years going forward.

Deputy Convener

09:35

The Convener: Item 3 is the choosing of our deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Green Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener. I understand that Maggie Chapman is the party's nominee.

Maggie Chapman was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Congratulations, Maggie.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

09:36

The Convener: Under item 4, do we agree to take in private item 5, which is a discussion of our work programme?

Members *indicated agreement.*

09:36

Meeting continued in private until 10:26.

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.

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

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