



**OFFICIAL REPORT**  
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

# **Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee**

**Wednesday 23 June 2021**

**Session 6**



**The Scottish Parliament**  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2021, Session 6**

**CONVENER**

\*Jackson Carlaw (Eastwood) (Con)

**DEPUTY CONVENER**

\*David Torrance (Kirkcaldy) (SNP)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (SNP)

\*Paul Sweeney (Glasgow) (Lab)

\*Tess White (North East Scotland) (Con)

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Lynn Tullis

**LOCATION**

Virtual Meeting



## Scottish Parliament

## Convener

### Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

*Wednesday 23 June 2021*

*[The Convener opened the meeting at 09:30]*

### Interests

**Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (SNP):**

Welcome to the first meeting in session 6 of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee. I am Bill Kidd, the MSP for Glasgow Anniesland. As I am, so I am told, the oldest member of the committee, I have the pleasure of convening the meeting for the first two items of business. I take this opportunity to welcome all members. I look forward to working with you on the committee.

Before I move to item 1, I remind everyone to switch mobile phones to silent mode, if you have not already done so.

No apologies have been received, and members are all on board.

Item 1 is our declarations of interests. Each of us should declare interests that are relevant to the work of the committee. Background information is provided in the declaration of interests paper that members have been issued with.

I will begin by stating that I have no relevant interests to declare.

**Jackson Carlaw (Eastwood) (Con):** I confirm that I have no relevant interests to declare.

**Paul Sweeney (Glasgow) (Lab):** I have no relevant interests to declare.

**David Torrance (Kirkcaldy) (SNP):** I have no relevant interests to declare.

**Tess White (North East Scotland) (Con):** I confirm that I have no relevant interests to declare.

09:32

**Bill Kidd:** Item 2 is the choice of convener. The procedure has been explained in paper 2.

Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party are eligible for nomination as convener of the committee. I understand that Jackson Carlaw is that party's nominee. I ask Tess White to nominate Jackson Carlaw for the post.

**Tess White:** I formally nominate Jackson Carlaw.

*Jackson Carlaw was chosen as convener.*

**Bill Kidd:** I congratulate Jackson Carlaw on his appointment and I now hand over to him.

## Deputy Convener

09:33

**The Convener (Jackson Carlaw):** Thank you, Bill. I begin by paying tribute to the immediate past conveners of the committee—Johann Lamont, Michael McMahon and David Stewart—all of whom I had the pleasure of working with in different ways.

I look forward to taking on the convenership of the committee. Having served on the Public Petitions Committee in the session before the previous one, I can say that I greatly value the work of the committee. Inherent and essential to that work is the free-flowing exchange of views and the working relationship that we all have on the committee as we seek to do our best on behalf of the petitioners whose petitions we will be considering.

I look forward to the coming session and to the work that we will do. In many respects, we have no idea what that will be. There are some outstanding petitions, as a consequence of the deadline by which petitions could be considered in the previous session. However, the new work that will come our way will be the challenge and the joy of the committee in the months ahead. I look forward very much to the task and to working with colleagues.

Item 3 is the choice of deputy convener. Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for the position. I believe that David Torrance is that party's nominee; I am pleased to invite Bill Kidd to nominate him.

**Bill Kidd:** I have great pleasure in nominating David Torrance.

*David Torrance was chosen as deputy convener.*

**The Convener:** Congratulations on your appointment, David. You are a continuing member of the committee. I remember serving with you on the Public Petitions Committee in a session that feels like 100 years ago now. You were also a member in the session before this one. I know that you will bring your huge experience to bear in your new post, to the benefit of us all.

**David Torrance:** Thank you, convener. I look forward to the petitions that will come to us. As you say, we do not know what they will be, so it will be interesting to see what they are. We should highlight the good work that the committee does. That is really important.

As you said, this is now my third session on the committee. I am really looking forward to it.

**The Convener:** I also welcome all the other members of the committee: Bill, who, it turns out, is older than me; Paul; and Tess. I hope that we have a successful parliamentary session.

## Work Programme

09:36

**The Convener:** Item 4 is consideration of our work programme in outline. There are two or three decisions that it would be useful for us to take. The first is to consider holding a business planning session, which will give us an opportunity to consider the legacy report and to consider and agree our statement of intent for the committee for the coming session, and also to discuss all the other relevant issues that we might wish to consider about how we do the work of the committee.

I propose that we hold a planning session during the summer recess and that we aim, all things being equal, to do that in person here in Parliament at some point, probably during the final week of recess.

Do members agree to do that? I will not come to you all individually, because we know from experience that that can take half an hour. I will take it that the proposal is generally agreed.

The second issue that is before us is to consider the status of 15 on-going petitions that our predecessor committee referred to subject committees. The committee had taken those petitions as far as it could and had decided that they would best be taken forward by a subject committee. By convention, at the end of a parliamentary session, if such a petition is still under discussion, it is referred back to this committee, because it might be that the subject committee that was considering it has been disbanded or constructed in a different form.

As I said, we have 15 petitions in that category; I suggest that we refer them back to the most appropriate subject committees, which might, of course, be the same committees that were dealing with them before. Do members agree to do that?

I see that we all agree.

Do members have any other matters that they would like us to consider this morning? Brief as this meeting has been, we have considered all the immediate items on the agenda.

I take members' silence as agreement that we do not want to consider anything else today. We look forward to our next public meeting after the summer recess. Until then, I thank you all and wish you a good morning.

*Meeting closed at 09:39.*





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