

# **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday 16 April 2008

Session 3

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### AUDIT COMMITTEE

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2008, Session 3

##### CONVENER

\*Hugh Henry (Paisley South) (Lab)

##### DEPUTY CONVENER

\*Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)

##### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

\*Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Lab)  
\*Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP)  
\*George Foulkes (Lothians) (Lab)  
Jim Hume (South of Scotland) (LD)  
\*Stuart McMillan (West of Scotland) (SNP)  
\*Andrew Welsh (Angus) (SNP)

##### COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Derek Brownlee (South of Scotland) (Con)  
James Kelly (Glasgow Rutherglen) (Lab)  
\*Iain Smith (North East Fife) (LD)  
Sandra White (Glasgow) (SNP)

\*attended

##### CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Tracey Reilly

##### SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Joanna Hardy

##### ASSISTANT CLERK

Rebecca Lamb

##### LOCATION

Committee Room 3



## Scottish Parliament

### Audit Committee

*Wednesday 16 April 2008*

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:01*]

### Interests

**The Convener (Hugh Henry):** Good morning. I open the Audit Committee's seventh meeting in 2008. I would welcome members of the press, but no one is here—we are on our own, because the agenda is light. I welcome Audit Scotland staff and give everyone a timely reminder to switch off their mobile phones—I realise that I am guilty in that respect.

Iain Smith is substituting for Jim Hume. As this is Iain's first meeting as a substitute, I ask whether he has any interests to declare.

**Iain Smith (North East Fife) (LD):** This is indeed the first time that I have been in such esteemed company. I have no relevant interests to declare.

## Mainstreaming Equal Opportunities

10:02

**The Convener:** Agenda item 1 is consideration of a letter from the convener of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, which asks whether committees should be obliged to report periodically on how they have built equality considerations into their work. Does anyone have any views on that? The letter asks about the principle of reporting once a session or annually, whether we think that a rule change is necessary and whether we plan to include in our annual report a passage on mainstreaming equalities.

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con):** It is difficult to see how the issue is terribly relevant to our committee's work, but I have no particular objection to the proposal, if members want to go along with it.

**The Convener:** We might reflect on issues for Audit Scotland, but I agree with Murdo Fraser that no substantial issues arise. However, the principle is worthy and we can reflect on the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's deliberations after it has received responses.

**Andrew Welsh (Angus) (SNP):** Perhaps reporting could be done annually.

**The Convener:** Probably.

**Andrew Welsh:** That would be a health check.

**The Convener:** Yes. Are we agreed?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** We now move into private session.

10:03

*Meeting continued in private until 11:47.*



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