

# **GLASGOW AIRPORT RAIL LINK BILL COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 14 March 2006

Session 2

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## **GLASGOW AIRPORT RAIL LINK BILL COMMITTEE**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2006, Session 2**

### **OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER**

\*Mr Andrew Arbuckle (Mid Scotland and Fife) (LD)

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*Marlyn Glen (North East Scotland) (Lab)

\*Margaret Jamieson (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (Lab)

\*Michael Matheson (Central Scotland) (SNP)

\*Mr Brian Monteith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Ind)

\*attended

### **CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Terry Shevlin

### **LOCATION**

Committee Room 2



# Scottish Parliament

## Glasgow Airport Rail Link Bill Committee

*Tuesday 14 March 2006*

[THE OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER *opened the meeting at 12:11*]

### Interests

**Mr Andrew Arbuckle (Oldest Committee Member):** I welcome members, the press and the public to the first meeting of the Glasgow Airport Rail Link Bill Committee. I remind members to switch off their mobile phones and pagers. We have a full turnout this morning—no apologies have been received.

The first item on the agenda is to ask all members of the committee to declare any relevant interests. As that is a statutory requirement, it would be advisable for members to err on the side of caution by declaring any interests that would prejudice, or give the appearance of prejudicing, their ability to participate in the committee's proceedings in a disinterested manner.

Before I invite members to declare any interests, I note that standing orders also require members to declare that they will act impartially in their capacity as members of the committee and will base their decisions solely on the evidence and information that are provided to it. It makes sense for members to make such a declaration at the same time as they declare any interests.

I begin by declaring that I have no declarable interests and that I will act impartially.

**Mr Brian Monteith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Ind):** I believe that I have no interests to declare and am convinced that I will act impartially. However, I want to bring to the committee's attention something of which I have already notified the clerk through my office. At functions that MSPs have been invited to attend, I have sat as a guest at the table of Scottish Airports, which is part of the British Airports Authority, although I do not consider that that impugns my ability to act impartially.

In addition, I spoke at a fringe meeting at the Conservative party conference that was sponsored by Strathclyde Passenger Transport. I talked about transport in broad terms rather than about transport in Strathclyde specifically. Again, I regard that as having no impact on my ability to arbitrate on the merits of the Glasgow Airport Rail Link Bill. I note those activities for the committee's information, lest they be brought up at a later

stage, but I do not believe that they will make any difference to my work on the committee and I am therefore not declaring them as interests.

**Michael Matheson (Central Scotland) (SNP):** I have no interests to declare and I will act impartially.

**Marlyn Glen (North East Scotland) (Lab):** I, too, have no interests to declare and I will act impartially.

**Margaret Jamieson (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (Lab):** I have no interests to declare and I will act impartially.

## Convener

12:14

**Mr Arbuckle:** We move to item 2 on the agenda. Parliament has agreed to a Parliamentary Bureau motion stating that the convener of the committee is to be chosen from the Labour Party. I invite a nomination for the convenership.

**Marlyn Glen:** I nominate Margaret Jamieson.

*Margaret Jamieson was chosen as convener.*

**Mr Andrew Arbuckle (Mid Scotland and Fife) (LD):** Well done.

**The Convener (Margaret Jamieson):** Thanks very much. Rather than swap seats, we will stay where we are. I thank members for electing me as the committee's convener.

## Deputy Convener

12:14

**The Convener:** The next item on the agenda is the election of a deputy convener. The Parliamentary Bureau motion to which Andrew Arbuckle referred states that the deputy convener of the committee is to be a member of the Labour Party. I invite nominations for the post.

**Mr Arbuckle:** I nominate Marlyn Glen.

*Marlyn Glen was chosen as deputy convener.*

## Item in Private

12:15

**The Convener:** Under the next item on the agenda, the committee is required to decide whether it wishes to take in private item 5. Is that agreed?

**Members indicated agreement.**

**The Convener:** I inform those members of the press who are present that the information that we will consider under item 5, which relates to when and where the committee will meet, will be made public at a future date.

12:15

*Meeting continued in private until 12:49.*

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