



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 4 December 2025

Session 6



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE
24th Meeting 2025, Session 6

CONVENER

*Martin Whitfield (South Scotland) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Ruth Maguire (Cunninghame South) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Emma Roddick (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)

*Sue Webber (Lothian) (Con)

*Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Catherine Fergusson

LOCATION

The David Livingstone Room (CR6)

Scottish Parliament
Standards, Procedures and
Public Appointments Committee

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[The Convener opened the meeting at 09:30]

Decision on Taking Business in
Private

The Convener (Martin Whitfield): Good morning, and welcome to the 24th meeting in 2025 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. Under item 1, does the committee agree to take in private item 3, which is consideration of a report from the Ethical Standards Commissioner?

Members indicated agreement.

Document subject to
Parliamentary Control

Non-Party Campaigner Campaign
Expenditure (Scottish Parliament
Elections) Code of Practice 2025 [Draft]

09:30

The Convener: Our second item is consideration of a draft code of practice for non-party campaigners at the Scottish parliamentary elections and council elections in Scotland. Members will recall that we considered a draft of the code at our meeting on 6 November, as part of the consultation process that is required under the parent act. The document before us today was laid following the conclusion of that process.

This document is subject to the negative procedure and has been referred to the committee for scrutiny on policy grounds. For clarity on procedure, any MSP may propose, by motion, that the lead committee recommend that the document not be approved. If such a motion is lodged, it must be debated at a meeting of the committee, and the committee must then report to the Parliament. If there is no motion recommending that the document not be approved, the committee is not required to report on the document.

The committee is invited to consider whether there are any points that we would like to raise on the draft code of practice. As is set out in the accompanying note, the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee has identified two minor matters in relation to a reference in the code to the publication of consultation reports.

Is there anything that members would like to discuss before we move to the next part of the meeting?

Members: No.

The Convener: I have only two concerns. The first is about the matters that our companion committee, the DPLR Committee, identified. Those need to be taken into account.

Secondly, with regard to the question of the consultation, there are wider questions that need to be looked at—probably after the election—with regard to guidance that is being given in respect of various matters.

Good morning, Emma. We are discussing the second item, which is on guidance and the code of practice. Do you want to make any comments?

Emma Roddick (Highlands and Islands) (SNP): I do not.

The Convener: Fine. Are we content to note the document?

09:32

Meeting continued in private until 10:15.

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: Excellent. I now move the meeting into private session.

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