

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 22 November 2000
(Morning)

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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE

26th Meeting 2000, Session 1

CONVENER

*Mrs Margaret Smith (Edinburgh West) (LD)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Dorothy-Grace Elder (Glasgow) (SNP)
*Hugh Henry (Paisley South) (Lab)
*Margaret Jamieson (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (Lab)
*Mr Frank McAveety (Glasgow Shettleston) (Lab)
*Irene Oldfather (Cunninghame South) (Lab)
*Shona Robison (North-East Scotland) (SNP)
*Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con)
*Nicola Sturgeon (Glasgow) (SNP)
*Dr Richard Simpson (Ochil) (Lab)
*Ben Wallace (North-East Scotland) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Jennifer Smart

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Irene Fleming

ASSISTANT CLERK

Joanna Hardy

LOCATION

The Hub

Scottish Parliament

Health and Community Care Committee

Wednesday 22 November 2000

(Morning)

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

The Convener (Mrs Margaret Smith): Good morning and welcome to today's meeting of the Health and Community Care Committee.

Before we deal with the agenda, I will make a short statement about our community care inquiry report. Most members will know that the report appears to have been leaked to the BBC. The matter is now in the hands of the Standards Committee, which has received two formal complaints. I simply want to inform members that that is the situation at the moment. The committee will make no more comment on the matter, or anything relating to it, that would be prejudicial to the Standards Committee's inquiry. It is likely that the Standards Committee will contact every member of this committee individually. We must leave the Standards Committee to investigate the matter.

Hugh Henry (Paisley South) (Lab): Correct me if I am wrong, but is that not the third of our reports that has been leaked to the press? Should that also be an issue for the Standards Committee?

The Convener: It is certainly the second report that has been the subject of a formal complaint to the Standards Committee. You are probably right that it is the third. I will raise that matter when the Standards Committee talks to me, because there are wider implications for all the committees about the drafting of reports. Everybody needs to be involved in the final stages of producing a report, when we are moving from the draft to the final version, to ensure that everybody is happy. At the same time, the process must be kept as tight as possible.

We could chat all day about how damaging it is for a report to be leaked, but at this stage I do not want to say any more. When individual members are contacted by the Standards Committee, they will have the opportunity not only to say anything factual about the leak but to comment on the wider implications.

Subordinate Legislation

The Convener: The only item on the agenda is consideration of negative instruments. The first instrument is the National Health Service (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Amendment (No 3) Regulations 2000 (SSI 2000/394), which was circulated to members on 14 November. No members' comments have been received. The Subordinate Legislation Committee had no comments to make. No motion to annul has been lodged. The recommendation is, that the committee does not wish to make any recommendation in relation to the instrument. Are we agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: The next instrument is the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Amendment (No 2) Regulations 2000 (SSI 2000/395), which was also circulated on 14 November. No members' comments have been received. The Subordinate Legislation Committee had no comments to make. No motion to annul has been lodged. The recommendation is, that the committee does not wish to make any recommendation in relation to the instrument. Are we agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: The next instrument is the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Scotland) Amendment (No 2) Regulations 2000 (SSI 2000/396), which was circulated on 14 November. No members' comments have been received. The Subordinate Legislation Committee had no comments to make. No motion to annul has been lodged. The recommendation is, that the committee does not wish to make any recommendation in relation to the instrument. Are we agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: That brings this morning's business to an end.

Meeting closed at 10:05.

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