

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 12 September 2001
(*Morning*)

Session 1

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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE COMMITTEE 19th Meeting 2001, Session 1

CONVENER

*Mrs Margaret Smith (Edinburgh West) (LD)

DEPUTY CONVENER

Margaret Jamieson (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dorothy-Grace Elder (Glasgow) (SNP)
*Janis Hughes (Glasgow Rutherglen) (Lab)
*Mr John McAllion (Dundee East) (Lab)
*Shona Robison (North-East Scotland) (SNP)
*Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con)
*Dr Richard Simpson (Ochil) (Lab)
*Nicola Sturgeon (Glasgow) (SNP)

*attended

THE FOLLOWING ALSO ATTENDED:

Malcolm Chisholm (Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care)

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Jennifer Smart

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERKS

Irene Fleming
Peter McGrath

ASSISTANT CLERK

Joanna Hardy

LOCATION

Chamber

Scottish Parliament

Health and Community Care Committee

Wednesday 12 September 2001

(Morning)

[THE CONVENER opened the meeting at 09:34]

The Convener (Mrs Margaret Smith): Good morning. Welcome to this meeting of the Health and Community Care Committee. I welcome the Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care.

I will make a short statement to the committee—and I hope on its behalf—before we begin the proceedings.

All of us watched horrified, stunned and with disbelief the events of yesterday. We have no appetite for politics today. We are brought together by the images that we saw yesterday as technology whizzed the news around the world. Most important, we are brought together by our common humanity. The victims of yesterday's tragedy are in our hearts and in our prayers. Our thoughts are with not only the people of America, but with the politicians of America, because they have some difficult decisions and difficult days ahead of them.

I do not believe that there is any appetite on the committee this morning for politics, so I suggest that we carry out the legislative business that we have this morning, which is to debate the motions on subordinate legislation that the minister must move. Following that, I suggest that we close the meeting and put the other business on to our agenda for future meetings. I am aware that there has been some confusion in the media and therefore among the public about whether the meeting would go ahead this morning and I am mindful of the fact that people might have wanted to come to hear what we said about certain petitions. For those reasons, I suggest to committee members that we proceed as I have suggested. Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

Subordinate Legislation

The Convener: We move to agenda item 3, which is on subordinate legislation. The first instrument is the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning) (Orkney) (No 3) (Scotland) Order 2001 (SSI 2001/255). The Subordinate Legislation Committee has nothing to report. I ask the minister to move the motion.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care (Malcolm Chisholm): I will do that, but first I echo all that the convener has said. All Executive engagements are cancelled today. Members will appreciate that my attendance at this meeting is an attempt to minimise disruption to the committee's business. It will be the only business that any Executive ministers will undertake today.

The Convener: Thank you.

Malcolm Chisholm: Today's debate concerns the emergency orders banning the catching of king scallops in waters off the east and west coasts and around Orkney. All the orders prohibit the harvesting of king scallops and were triggered by the finding of amnesic, paralytic and diarrhetic shellfish poisoning above the action levels that have been set by Europe.

This is a consumer safety measure; scallops that contain high levels of the toxins can cause illness in humans, ranging from dizziness and headaches to extremes of paralysis, coma and death when a large amount of toxin is ingested.

I move,

That the Health and Community Care Committee recommends that the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning) (Orkney) (No 3) (Scotland) Order 2001 be approved.

Motion agreed to.

Motions moved,

That the Health and Community Care Committee recommends that the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning) (East Coast) (Scotland) Order 2001 be approved.

That the Health and Community Care Committee recommends that the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning) (West Coast) Order 2001 (SSI 2001/273) be approved.

That the Health and Community Care Committee recommends that the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning) (West Coast) (No 2) (Scotland) Order 2001 be approved.

That the Health and Community Care Committee recommends that the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Amnesic, Paralytic and Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning) (Orkney) (Scotland) Order 2001 be approved.

That the Health and Community Care Committee recommends that the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning) (West Coast) (No 3) (Scotland) Order 2001 be approved.

That the Health and Community Care Committee recommends that the Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning) (West Coast) (No 4) (Scotland) Order 2001 be approved.—[*Malcolm Chisholm.*]

Motions agreed to.

The Convener: I thank the minister for his attendance and note his comments. I thank committee members for their indulgence and their attendance this morning.

Meeting closed at 09:39

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