OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 12 March 2026

Session 6

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE
9th Meeting 2026, Session 6

CONVENER

*Martin Whitfield (South Scotland) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Ruth Maguire (Cunninghame South) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Con)
*Emma Roddick (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)
*Sue Webber (Lothian) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Catherine Fergusson

LOCATION

The David Livingstone Room (CR6)

Scottish Parliament

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 12 March 2026

[The Convener opened the meeting at 09:33]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Martin Whitfield): Good morning and welcome to the ninth meeting in 2026 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

Our first agenda item is a decision on whether to take in private item 3, which is consideration of our draft annual report, and item 4, which is consideration of our draft legacy report, and whether to take in private any further consideration of these items at future meetings. Do members agree to take these items in private?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Representation of the People Bill (Legislative Consent Memorandum)

09:33

The Convener: Our second agenda item is consideration of a legislative consent memorandum, lodged by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government. The memorandum relates to the Representation of the People Bill, which was introduced in the House of Commons on 12 February 2026.

The memorandum sets out that the Scottish Government agrees with the United Kingdom Government that certain provisions in the bill engage the legislative consent process in relation to registration of voters, conduct of elections, campaigns and political expenditure, and enforcement and the Electoral Commission.

The Scottish Government's position on specific clauses is set out in the memorandum. The Scottish Government has not set out a position in the memorandum on legislative consent, on the basis that

"The policy and legal analysis required of the Bill is still ongoing, given the complexity of electoral law and the devolution settlement."

The memorandum explains that the Scottish Government does not intend to lodge a motion on legislative consent in relation to the bill prior to the Scottish parliamentary election on 7 May 2026.

As no members have indicated that they wish to comment, are we content to note the memorandum at this point?

Members *indicated agreement*.

The Convener: Excellent. We will note the memorandum, and I will now move this meeting into private session.

09:35

Meeting continued in private until 09:49.

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