

# **NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND BILL COMMITTEE**

Thursday 9 January 2003  
*(Afternoon)*

Session 1

£5.00

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# CONTENTS

Thursday 9 January 2003

|                       | Col. |
|-----------------------|------|
| INTERESTS .....       | 1    |
| CONVENER .....        | 2    |
| DEPUTY CONVENER ..... | 2    |
| ITEM IN PRIVATE.....  | 2    |

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## NATIONAL GALLERIES OF SCOTLAND BILL COMMITTEE

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2003, Session 1

### OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER

\*John Young (West of Scotland) (Con)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

\*Rhona Brankin (Midlothian) (Lab)

\*Maureen Macmillan (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

\*Alasdair Morgan (Galloway and Upper Nithsdale) (SNP)

\*Mrs Margaret Smith (Edinburgh West) (LD)

\*attended

### CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

David Cullum

### SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Alison Campbell

### ASSISTANT CLERK

Zoé Dean

### LOCATION

Committee Room 4



## Scottish Parliament

### National Galleries of Scotland Bill Committee

*Thursday 9 January 2003*

*(Afternoon)*

[THE OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER *opened the meeting at 13:28*]

**John Young (Oldest Committee Member):** As there are no objections to starting the meeting slightly early, I welcome everyone and remind people to turn off their mobile phones and pagers. I am looking at our friends from the press, in case they have hotlines.

I understand that I am the oldest committee member present, although there may be some dubiety about that. Rule 12.1.6 of the standing orders states:

"the first meeting of a committee after it is established by the Parliament ... shall be chaired by the Oldest Committee Member until a convener is chosen."

### Interests

**John Young:** Agenda item 1 is declaration of interests. Declaring interests is a statutory requirement, so it would be advisable for members to err on the side of caution and to declare any interests that would prejudice or give the appearance of prejudicing their ability to participate in a disinterested manner in the committee's proceedings.

**Rhona Brankin (Midlothian) (Lab):** I do not have any financial interests, but I am a member of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland and chair of the cross-party architecture and the built environment group of the Scottish Parliament.

**John Young:** I think that the committee would accept that that should not be a problem. Do other members have interests to declare?

**Members:** No.

**John Young:** Similarly, I have no interests to declare.

## Convener

**John Young:** The Parliament agreed to a Parliamentary Bureau motion that the convener of the committee should be a Labour member. Only one member is required to make a nomination—a seconder is not required.

**Alasdair Morgan (Galloway and Upper Nithsdale) (SNP):** I nominate Rhona Brankin.

*Rhona Brankin was chosen as convener.*

**John Young:** I congratulate Rhona Brankin. No member dissented to her nomination as convener. I will now demit my office, which I have held for a short time, and give her the convener's seat.

## Deputy Convener

**The Convener (Rhona Brankin):** The Parliament agreed to a Parliamentary Bureau motion that the deputy convener of the committee should be a member of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. I invite nominations for the deputy convener.

**Mrs Margaret Smith (Edinburgh West) (LD):** I nominate John Young.

**John Young (West of Scotland) (Con):** This is a bit like a Soviet election.

**The Convener:** There is no requirement for the candidacy to be seconded. My script does not tell me to ask whether there are any other nominations.

*John Young was chosen as deputy convener.*

## Item in Private

**The Convener:** Does the committee agree to take item 5 in private? The item concerns consideration of papers from the clerk on the approach to the preliminary stage of the bill.

**Alasdair Morgan:** What is the rationale for taking the item in private?

**The Convener:** The process is normal at this stage. There are a number of issues to discuss, such as whom we should invite as witnesses. Do members agree to take the item in private?

**Members indicated agreement.**

13:34

*Meeting continued in private until 13:41.*



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