

ECONOMY, ENERGY AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Wednesday 19 December 2007

Session 3

£5.00

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body 2007.

Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to the Licensing Division,
Her Majesty's Stationery Office, St Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BQ
Fax 01603 723000, which is administering the copyright on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate
Body.

Produced and published in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body by RR
Donnelley.

CONTENTS

Wednesday 19 December 2007

	Col.
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE	395
ENERGY	396

ECONOMY, ENERGY AND TOURISM COMMITTEE **12th Meeting 2007, Session 3**

CONVENER

*Tavish Scott (Shetland) (LD)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Brian Adam (Aberdeen North) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Gavin Brown (Lothians) (Con)

*Christopher Harvie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP)

*Marilyn Livingstone (Kirkcaldy) (Lab)

*Lewis Macdonald (Aberdeen Central) (Lab)

*Dave Thompson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)

*David Whitton (Strathkelvin and Bearsden) (Lab)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Nigel Don (North East Scotland) (SNP)

George Foulkes (Lothians) (Lab)

Alex Johnstone (North East Scotland) (Con)

Liam McArthur (Orkney) (LD)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Stephen Imrie

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Katy Orr

ASSISTANT CLERK

Gail Grant

LOCATION

Committee Room 3

Scottish Parliament

Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee

Wednesday 19 December 2007

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 09:30*]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Tavish Scott): Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It is half past 9 on this cold, frosty Edinburgh morning, and this is the 12th meeting of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee this year. You will all be delighted that this is our last meeting before Christmas.

Item 1 is consideration of whether to take item 3, which is consideration of a draft report on the budget process 2008-09, in private. Is that agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Energy

09:31

The Convener: Item 2 is an update on energy issues. The paper from the clerks identifies three matters for consideration this morning. The first is the proposed United Kingdom energy bill, the second relates to a couple of petitions, and the third is the offer of an information seminar for the inquiry that we propose to initiate next March. We will take the items in that order.

Do members have comments or observations on annex A of the paper, which sets out the contents of the UK energy bill?

Lewis Macdonald (Aberdeen Central) (Lab): The bill is relevant to some of the issues that we will consider but, until we know its detailed provisions, it will simply be a case of keeping a watching brief. However, it is helpful that we have been given an advance indication of the bill's contents.

The Convener: We will keep the committee up to date on developments with the bill, especially next year.

The second matter for consideration is two petitions, PE837 and PE969. We have received a reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth to our letter on the petitions. The reply suggests that the petitions will be covered by Government activity. Are colleagues broadly content with that approach?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: We will ensure that the petitioners are duly informed of the process that is under way.

The last matter for consideration is the committee's inquiry into Scotland's energy future. The Royal Society of Edinburgh has kindly offered to provide us with a briefing next March on a number of issues that are detailed in paragraph 3. In case members are worried that we will look at the issues from only one perspective, I make clear that this will be one of a series of briefings that the committee will have. Does the committee wish to avail itself of the seminar and information-gathering exercise that has been offered?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: As members have no further points to make on the inquiry, we move to item 3, which is consideration of a draft report on the budget. We will take the item in private.

09:34

Meeting continued in private until 12:27.

Members who would like a printed copy of the *Official Report* to be forwarded to them should give notice at the Document Supply Centre.

No proofs of the *Official Report* can be supplied. Members who want to suggest corrections for the archive edition should mark them clearly in the daily edition, and send it to the Official Report, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. Suggested corrections in any other form cannot be accepted.

The deadline for corrections to this edition is:

Thursday 3 January 2008

PRICES AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES

OFFICIAL REPORT daily editions

Single copies: £5.00

Meetings of the Parliament annual subscriptions: £350.00

The archive edition of the *Official Report* of meetings of the Parliament, written answers and public meetings of committees will be published on CD-ROM.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS weekly compilation

Single copies: £3.75

Annual subscriptions: £150.00

Standing orders will be accepted at Document Supply.

Published in Edinburgh by RR Donnelley and available from:

Blackwell's Bookshop

**53 South Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1YS
0131 622 8222**

Blackwell's Bookshops:
243-244 High Holborn
London WC1 7DZ
Tel 020 7831 9501

All trade orders for Scottish Parliament documents should be placed through Blackwell's Edinburgh.

Blackwell's Scottish Parliament Documentation
Helpline may be able to assist with additional information on publications of or about the Scottish Parliament, their availability and cost:

Telephone orders and inquiries
0131 622 8283 or
0131 622 8258

Fax orders
0131 557 8149

E-mail orders
business.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk

Subscriptions & Standing Orders
business.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk

Scottish Parliament

RNID Typetalk calls welcome on
18001 0131 348 5000
Textphone 0845 270 0152

sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

All documents are available on the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.scottish.parliament.uk

Accredited Agents
(see Yellow Pages)

and through good booksellers