

RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 7 January 2009

Session 3

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RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2009, Session 3

CONVENER

*Roseanna Cunningham (Perth) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*John Scott (Ayr) (Con)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Karen Gillon (Clydesdale) (Lab)

*Liam McArthur (Orkney) (LD)

*Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP)

*Elaine Murray (Dumfries) (Lab)

*Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

*Bill Wilson (West of Scotland) (SNP)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

*Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

Jamie Hepburn (Central Scotland) (SNP)

Jim Hume (South of Scotland) (LD)

Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Peter McGrath

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Roz Wheeler

LOCATION

Committee Room 1

Scottish Parliament

Rural Affairs and Environment Committee

Wednesday 7 January 2009

[THE CONVENER opened the meeting at 10:00]

Decisions on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Roseanna Cunningham): I welcome everybody to the meeting and officially wish you a happy new year. I hope that 2009 brings you everything that you want.

John Scott (Ayr) (Con): May all your dreams come true.

The Convener: We will leave out the political dreams.

I remind everybody to switch off their various bits of electronic equipment. For members who are not aware of it, you can switch off your BlackBerry's wireless function and continue to check e-mails that came in before you arrived at the meeting. E-mails should not arrive during the meeting.

We have continuing apologies from Karen Gillon, who is still on maternity leave. Again, we welcome Rhoda Grant as the permanent substitute for Karen.

The main purpose of the meeting is consideration of the draft stage 1 report on the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Bill. As is standard practice, that will be done in private.

We must first dispense with two other items of business. Agenda item 1 is a decision on taking in private item 3, which is discussion of a paper on possible witnesses for our consideration of aspects of the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill. Although we are the secondary committee for the bill, we will be the only committee to consider those aspects. It is normal practice to discuss such papers in private. I also ask the committee to agree in advance to take future reviews of evidence on the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill in private, as has been normal practice. Do members agree with that?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: In addition, I ask that we take in private consideration of our draft report to the lead committee. For members who have not been in the Parliament before, I point out that, as the secondary committee on the Climate Change

(Scotland) Bill, we report on the bill to the lead committee, which is why we have to do things quite quickly. Do members agree to consider the draft report in private?

Members indicated agreement.

Subordinate Legislation

Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2008 (SSI 2008/378)

Action Programme for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2008 (SSI 2008/394)

Eggs and Chicks (Scotland) (No 2) Regulations 2008 (SSI 2008/395)

10:03

The Convener: Under agenda item 2, we have three Scottish statutory instruments that are subject to the negative procedure for consideration. Members might recall that we agreed at our most recent meeting to write to the Scottish Government for further information on the work that was undertaken in the preparation of SSI 2008/378. We deferred consideration of that SSI to allow members to consider the Government's response, which has been circulated electronically to members. Hard copies of the response are now before members.

Members should note that the Subordinate Legislation Committee has raised points on all three instruments. The relevant extracts from that committee's comments have been circulated to members as paper RAE/S3/09/1/5. Beyond the discussion on SSI 2008/378, no member has commented on any of the instruments and no motions to annul have been lodged. Do members have comments on the Government's response to SSI 2008/378?

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): The response clarified that there was consultation—not on the instrument itself but on the implications of the instrument—back in 2007. I am quite happy with that.

The Convener: Okay. Do other members have comments on the instruments? If not, does the committee agree that we will make no recommendations on the three instruments?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: That is the end of the public part of the meeting. I am sorry, but I must ask members of the public who may have only just come in to leave. Thank you.

10:05

Meeting continued in private until 12:17.

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