

STANDARDS AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday 20 June 2006

Session 2

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STANDARDS AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE 6th Meeting 2006, Session 2

CONVENER

*Brian Adam (Aberdeen North) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Bill Butler (Glasgow Anniesland) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Linda Fabiani (Central Scotland) (SNP)

*Alex Fergusson (Galloway and Upper Nithsdale) (Con)

Donald Gorrie (Central Scotland) (LD)

*Christine May (Central Fife) (Lab)

*Karen Whitefield (Airdrie and Shotts) (Lab)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (Lothians) (Con)

Paul Martin (Glasgow Springburn) (Lab)

Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Jennifer Smart

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Sarah Robertson

LOCATION

Committee Room 6

Scottish Parliament

Standards and Public Appointments Committee

Tuesday 20 June 2006

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 11:01*]

Code of Conduct

The Convener (Brian Adam): Welcome to the sixth meeting of the Standards and Public Appointments Committee in 2006. I ask everybody present to switch off their mobile phones. We have apologies from Donald Gorrie, as the Procedures Committee meeting clashes with our meeting again. I hope that that will be resolved by the time we return in September.

Item 1 is our review of the code of conduct. Members will see that we have three options. We have already discussed the first one, which is to have a further consultation. I do not detect any appetite in the committee to continue the consultation process. We discussed previously the second option, which is to have a workshop. I have not had any indication that there is a great deal of support for that either. I take it that members are content with the third option, which is contained in paragraph 23 of the clerk's paper—although it is probably spelled out rather better in paragraph 20—that we produce a draft revised code, before consulting the representatives of all the parties on a round-table basis.

Bill Butler (Glasgow Anniesland) (Lab): That would be eminently sensible and the most productive way forward.

The Convener: Is that agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Committee on Standards and Privileges (All-party Groups)

11:03

The Convener: I took the liberty of including item 2 on the agenda because it is reasonably topical. If members are interested in the committee submitting its views to the discussion south of the border on all-party groups, I am happy to take comments. I suggest that the comments on the recommendations that are provided in annex A with regard to how we proceed in relation to such matters might be helpful to the review of all-party groups at Westminster. I am more than happy to hear what other members have to say.

Bill Butler: The comments in annex A are appropriate and would help to inform our colleagues in the Westminster Parliament. We should do as you recommend.

The Convener: Is that agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Meeting closed at 11:04.

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