

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 13 February 2002
(Morning)

Session 1

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

3rd Meeting 2002, Session 1

CONVENER

*Mr Mike Rumbles (West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine) (LD)

DEPUTY CONVENER

Tricia Marwick (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Susan Deacon (Edinburgh East and Musselburgh) (Lab)

*Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (Lothians) (Con)

Mr Frank McAveety (Glasgow Shettleston) (Lab)

*Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab)

Kay Ullrich (West of Scotland) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Sam Jones

LOCATION

Committee Room 3

Scottish Parliament

Standards Committee

Wednesday 13 February 2002

(Morning)

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:03*]

The Convener (Mr Mike Rumbles): Good morning. I welcome everyone to the third meeting this year of the Standards Committee. We have received apologies from quite a number of members—Tricia Marwick, Susan Deacon and Kay Ullrich. I also understand that Frank McAveety is stuck at Queen Street railway station.

Item in Private

The Convener: Our first task is to consider how to take agenda item 3, which is our discussion of a draft committee report on our interim proposals for the replacement of the Scotland Act 1998 (Transitory and Transitional Provisions) (Members' Interests) Order 1999. I propose that we take that item in private. Are members agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

Cross-party Group

The Convener: Item 2 is consideration of a proposal from the cross-party group on the media to change its name to the cross-party group on culture and the media and therefore to amend the group's purpose. Although the code of conduct does not explicitly require the committee to approve such changes, the radical nature of the change in this case makes it appropriate for us to consider the request.

Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab): I should point out that I am a member of the cross-party group on the media.

The Convener: So you should be able to give us a good insight into the group.

Mr Macintosh: The proposal is fairly straightforward and is in keeping with the committee's intention to reduce, where possible, the number of cross-party groups. Our motivation is the desire not to have two competing cross-party groups; instead, as certain interests obviously overlap, we want to merge both groups into one.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (Lothians) (Con): The proposal is relevant, particularly in relation to Gaelic, where there is a question not

just of the media but of the culture itself. The same might apply to many other subjects. As a result, I think that the proposal is perfectly acceptable.

The Convener: As Ken Macintosh said, this is an admirable attempt to keep the number of cross-party groups a little tighter. The intention behind the proposal is absolutely right. If members are content, I will write to the convener of the cross-party group and say that we approve the proposal. Are members agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: We move to item 3. As we agreed at the beginning of the meeting, we will now move into private. I ask members of the public, the press, the official report and broadcasting to leave the meeting.

10:05

Meeting continued in private until 10:14.

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