

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 27 February 2002
(Morning)

Session 1

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

4th 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 27 February 2002

(Morning)

[THE DEPUTY CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:04*]

The Deputy Convener (Tricia Marwick): Good morning. I welcome everyone to the fourth meeting this year of the Standards Committee. We have received apologies from Mike Rumbles and Kay Ullrich.

Item in Private

The Deputy Convener: Agenda item 1 is to decide how to take item 3, which is our initial consideration of two reports from the standards adviser on two complaints against a member. In accordance with the complaints process set out in our report on models of investigation, I propose that we take item 3 in private. Are members agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

Confidentiality

The Deputy Convener: We move on to item 2, which concerns confidentiality. Members will recall that, in our eighth report last year, we recommended that the provisions on confidentiality in the code of conduct be changed. A briefing note, which has been circulated to members, summarises the amendments to the code and proposes a draft motion that asks the Parliament to agree to our recommendations. We hope to secure time to debate the matter in the chamber before the Easter recess. Do members have any comments, or are they happy with the motion?

Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab): I am happy with the motion. However, I have one point of clarification. Is the reference in paragraph 9.4.2 to

"briefing provided to members by Parliamentary staff for particular members' information only"

a new addition to the code of conduct, or has it always been in there?

The Deputy Convener: It was in the original code of conduct.

Are members content with the draft motion?

Members indicated agreement.

The Deputy Convener: Our final item of business is our initial consideration of two reports from the standards adviser concerning two complaints against a member. As agreed at the beginning of the meeting, we will move into private session for this item, so I ask members of the press, public, official report and broadcasting to leave.

10:06

Meeting continued in private until 10:54.

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