

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 5 May 2004
(*Afternoon*)

Session 2

£5.00

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body 2004.

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 The
Stationery Office Ltd.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office is independent of and separate from the company now
trading as The Stationery Office Ltd, which is responsible for printing and publishing
Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body publications.

CONTENTS

Wednesday 5 May 2004

	Col.
CONFERENCE	249

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

6th Meeting 2004, Session 2

CONVENER

*Brian Adam (Aberdeen North) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Butler (Glasgow Anniesland) (Lab)

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

Donald Gorrie (Central Scotland) (LD)

*Alex Neil (Central Scotland) (SNP)

*Karen Whitefield (Airdrie and Shotts) (Lab)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (Lothians) (Con)

Marilyn Livingstone (Kirkcaldy) (Lab)

Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Sam Jones

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Sarah Robertson

LOCATION

Committee Room 4

Scottish Parliament

Standards Committee

Wednesday 5 May 2004

(Afternoon)

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 11:59*]

Conference

The Convener (Brian Adam): Welcome to the sixth meeting this year of the Standards Committee. We have apologies from Donald Gorrie, who is at a meeting of the Communities Committee, and from Bill Butler and Ken Macintosh, who are detained at other committee meetings.

The only item of business is to deal with an invitation to the Standards Committee to contribute to a series of seminars in Bosnia and Herzegovina on codes of conduct. The seminars have been organised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe as part of its parliamentary support programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The three Parliaments there are about to start work on developing their own codes of conduct and the seminars are intended to assist the process. It will not just be a one-way process. When anyone goes abroad they have the opportunity to exchange views. We may hear some interesting views about how they are dealing with their experiences and ideas. Undoubtedly, as they have strict views on members' interests, it might help us in dealing with our members' interests order.

We already have links with the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its clerks and Speaker have been over here, because they were interested in how the Scottish Parliament was set up. There is an opportunity to build on links.

All the costs will be met by the OSCE, which indicated that it is also willing to bear the costs for an official to discuss the drafting of the new code with the secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. If members are of a mind to accept the invitation to a member and the clerk, they may wish to receive a report back in due course. If the committee agrees, we will seek the approval of the Conveners Group and the Parliamentary Bureau as soon as possible, as the seminars are only two weeks away. Do members have any questions?

Alex Fergusson (Galloway and Upper Nithsdale) (Con): Out of interest, do we have an indication of how many Parliaments will be attending the seminars?

The Convener: I cannot tell you. The invitation was specifically to us. I am unsure whether other Parliaments have been invited to attend.

Sarah Robertson (Clerk): We do not have that information at the moment.

The Convener: The invitation was received late in the day by the Scottish Parliament's external liaison unit and was then passed to the clerks.

Alex Fergusson: It is an excellent opportunity, and I would not wish to stand in the way of it.

The Convener: Presentations will have to be made to all three Parliaments and will take place in Sarajevo and in Banja Luka in the north-east. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will also be sending people to give a presentation and attend the seminar series. That is the only information that we have on other participants.

Is the committee of a mind to send a member and a clerk to the seminars?

Members indicated agreement.

Alex Neil (Central Scotland) (SNP): Convener, I suggest that we indicate the importance of the visit by sending your good self, if you are willing to go.

The Convener: I am willing to go, if that is the wish of the committee.

Alex Fergusson: Your mastery of pronunciation determines that you should be the one to go, convener.

The Convener: Thank you for your kind remarks. I hope that my pronunciation will have improved by the time I get back.

Meeting closed at 12:04.

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, 375 High Street, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. Suggested corrections in any other form cannot be accepted.

The deadline for corrections to this edition is:

Tuesday 18 May 2004

Members who want reprints of their speeches (within one month of the date of publication) may obtain request forms and further details from the Central Distribution Office, the Document Supply Centre or the Official Report.

PRICES AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES

DAILY EDITIONS

Single copies: £5

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, compiled by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre, contains details of past and forthcoming business and of the work of committees and gives general information on legislation and other parliamentary activity.

Single copies: £3.75

Special issue price: £5

Annual subscriptions: £150.00

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS weekly compilation

Single copies: £3.75

Annual subscriptions: £150.00

Standing orders will be accepted at the Document Supply Centre.

Published in Edinburgh by The Stationery Office Limited and available from:

The Stationery Office Bookshop
71 Lothian Road
Edinburgh EH3 9AZ
0870 606 5566 Fax 0870 606 5588

The Stationery Office Bookshops at:
123 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PQ
Tel 020 7242 6393 Fax 020 7242 6394
68-69 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AD
Tel 0121 236 9696 Fax 0121 236 9699
33 Wine Street, Bristol BS1 2BQ
Tel 01179 264306 Fax 01179 294515
9-21 Princess Street, Manchester M60 8AS
Tel 0161 834 7201 Fax 0161 833 0634
16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD
Tel 028 9023 8451 Fax 028 9023 5401
The Stationery Office Oriel Bookshop,
18-19 High Street, Cardiff CF1 2BZ
Tel 029 2039 5548 Fax 029 2038 4347

The Stationery Office 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
0870 606 5566

Fax orders
0870 606 5588

The Scottish Parliament Shop
George IV Bridge
EH99 1SP
Telephone orders 0131 348 5412

RNID TYPETALK calls welcome on
18001 0131 348 5412
Textphone 0845 270 0152

sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

www.scottish.parliament.uk

Accredited Agents
(see Yellow Pages)

and through good booksellers