

# **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 8 June 2004  
(*Morning*)

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

Tuesday 8 June 2004

	Col.
CROSS-PARTY GROUPS.....	286
CODE OF CONDUCT .....	287

---

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE

### 8<sup>th</sup> 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

*Tuesday 8 June 2004*

*(Morning)*

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 11:02*]

**The Convener (Brian Adam):** Welcome to the eighth meeting of the Standards Committee this year. I have not received any apologies, so I assume that the members who are not present are on their way. Members should ensure that their mobile phones are switched off.

We have three items on our agenda today. Item 3 will need to be considered in private, for the usual reasons. I take it that members agree that we will take item 3 in private, as we are constrained to do.

**Members indicated agreement.**

## Cross-party Groups

11:03

**The Convener:** The first item on the agenda is the draft report on the research into the cross-party group system that was carried out by the Robert Gordon University. We have the report and it is up to us how we deal with it. I suggest that this is not the day to go into the detail of the report so, if members are content with it, we should publish it. We can then consider the detail and findings of the report and consider how we will proceed with our work on cross-party groups, perhaps in the autumn. Do members have any questions on or alternatives to my suggestion that we publish the report now and then examine the detail when we go to our rather more salubrious surroundings in the autumn? Is everyone content with that?

**Alex Neil (Central Scotland) (SNP):** How much did the research cost?

**The Convener:** What an excellent question. I cannot provide an immediate answer, but I am sure that our clerks will be able to. Do we have information on the cost?

**Sam Jones (Clerk):** We would need to speak to the Scottish Parliament information centre to find out how much the research cost.

**Alex Neil:** Frankly, I think that the report is a complete waste of time, as it does not tell us anything. It is a case of someone borrowing your watch to tell you the time.

**The Convener:** It is not necessary to go into the detail now. You will have the opportunity to do that when we consider the report. If you wish, we can find out from SPICe how much the research cost. Costings have to be produced for any research proposals, which go to the Conveners Group, as I am sure that you are aware, as you have been on that group.

**Alex Neil:** Yes. I think that I was on the group when this research was approved.

**The Convener:** In that case, you will be aware of it. We can find out the information and convey it to you. Are members content to publish the report now and consider it in detail later?

**Members indicated agreement.**

## Code of Conduct

11:05

**The Convener:** Item 2 is the changes to the “Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament” that we considered at our previous meeting. Members have before them section 10.2 of the code as redrafted. I draw to members’ attention a couple of typos, which they may have noticed in going through the papers. First, in the conclusion, which is the third paragraph on page 2 of paper ST/S2/04/8/2, we should delete the word “to” in the last line, so that it reads “and asks that the Parliament endorse them.” Secondly, the second-last paragraph of section 10.2.30, which is on page 8 of paper ST/S2/04/7/4c, refers to “the opportunity”, but it should refer to “an opportunity”. That is what we debated last time, if members recall.

If members are content with the report, we will have to get the Parliament to agree to the changes. Members have before them a draft motion on the draft report, which I suggest be put to the Parliamentary Bureau for inclusion as part of the business for the next committee day in the Parliament. Are members content to go ahead on that basis?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** We will now move into private session, so I invite members of the press and public to leave.

11:07

*Meeting continued in private until 12:23.*

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 15 June 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