

# **STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 19 May 2009

Session 3

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## **STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2009, Session 3**

#### **CONVENER**

\*Gil Paterson (West of Scotland) (SNP)

#### **DEPUTY CONVENER**

\*Marilyn Livingstone (Kirkcaldy) (Lab)

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Robert Brown (Glasgow) (LD)

\*Aileen Campbell (South of Scotland) (SNP)

Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con)

\*Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

Dave Thompson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)

#### **COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES**

\*Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP)

Mary Mulligan (Linlithgow) (Lab)

Mike Rumbles (West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine) (LD)

Elizabeth Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)

\*attended

#### **CLERKS TO THE COMMITTEE**

Gillian Baxendine

Alison Walker

#### **SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERKS**

Mary Dinsdale

Jane Williams

#### **ASSISTANT CLERK**

Catherine Fergusson

#### **LOCATION**

Committee Room 5



## Scottish Parliament

### Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

*Tuesday 19 May 2009*

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 14:15*]

### Decision on Taking Business in Private

**The Convener (Gil Paterson):** Welcome to the seventh meeting in 2009 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. We have received apologies from Dave Thompson and Robert Brown. I welcome Alasdair Morgan. I hope that your attendance at the committee will be of benefit to you—and to us.

**Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP):** I am sure that it will be as stimulating as it always is.

**The Convener:** Item 1 is a decision on whether to take in private item 3, on guidance on exceptional circumstances in relation to the cut-off date for the introduction of members' bills. The guidance is not yet in its final form, so do members agree to consider it in private?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

## Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Act 2006

14:16

**The Convener:** Item 2 relates to proposed amendments to the Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Act 2006, which will result from the implementation of the Companies Act 2006. The proposed amendments are set out in a letter to the Minister for Parliamentary Business from Ian Pearson MP, Economic and Business Minister at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Section 19(1) of the Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Act 2006 contains references to the Companies Act 1985, which will become out of date when the Companies Act 2006 is implemented. The amendments would be made by United Kingdom statutory instrument and it is intended that the order would come into effect on 1 October 2009. BERR, through the Minister for Parliamentary Business, is seeking to ensure that the committee is content with the proposed changes, which the Economic and Business Minister has said are "entirely mechanical".

The committee will want to be satisfied that updating the statutory references in the Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Act 2006 will not result in changes to registration requirements for members.

In light of the proposed amendments, the committee might want to consider updating a number of documents, including the code of conduct for members of the Scottish Parliament and the written statement form. Those matters are set out in paper SPPA/S3/09/7/1 from the clerks.

Do members agree with the proposed amendments to the Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Act 2006?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** Are members happy for me to write to the Minister for Parliamentary Business to confirm that?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** Finally, do we agree to consider a note on consequential changes to other parliamentary documents at a future meeting?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** Thank you. That concludes the public part of the meeting.

14:18

*Meeting continued in private until 14:48.*



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