

# **SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 19 June 2007

Session 3

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## SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2007, Session 3

### OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER

\*Ilan McKee (Lothians) (SNP)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

\*Jackson Carlaw (West of Scotland) (Con)

George Foulkes (Lothians) (Lab)

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

\*Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab)

\*Mr Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) (LD)

### COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Christopher Harvie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP)

\*attended

### CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Gillian Baxendine

### SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

David McLaren

### ASSISTANT CLERK

Jake Thomas

### LOCATION

Committee Room 5



# Scottish Parliament

## Subordinate Legislation Committee

Tuesday 19 June 2007

[THE OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER opened the meeting at 14:15]

### Interests

**Ian McKee (Oldest Committee Member):** Good afternoon and welcome to the first meeting of the Subordinate Legislation Committee in the third session of the Scottish Parliament. Before we go any further, I would be grateful if everyone would turn off any mobile phones, pagers or BlackBerrys. There are no apologies for absence.

In accordance with volume 2, section 3 of the members' code of conduct, I invite members to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee's remit.

I have no relevant interests.

**Gil Paterson (West of Scotland) (SNP):** I submit my entry in the "Register of Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament" as my declaration. I am unsure whether I have interests relevant to items that may come up in committee proceedings, but if I do, I will make them known at the time.

**Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab):** Likewise. I also declare the support that I received in the previous parliamentary session during the passage of the Breastfeeding etc (Scotland) Act 2005. I am a member of the General Teaching Council for Scotland and the Transport and General Workers Union. I am also the convener of Scottish Labour's campaign for socialism. If interests arose in relation to anything specific that came to the committee, I would raise the matter then.

**Jackson Carlaw (West of Scotland) (Con):** I refer to Gil Paterson's response—I have lodged an entry in the register of members' interests. The work of this committee is all new stuff to me, but I do not believe that I have any interests that would conflict with it. However, should any conflict of interests arise, I would draw it to the committee's attention on an issue-by-issue basis.

**Mr Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) (LD):** I refer members to my entry in the register of members' interests, which I submit as my declaration. You never know, we might get a Scottish statutory instrument on milk and dairy

products, in which case I would declare an interest.

### Convener

14:17

**Ian McKee:** The next item of business is the choice of committee convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Liberal Democrats are eligible for nomination as convener. I seek nominations for the post.

**Gil Paterson:** I nominate Jamie Stone.

**Ian McKee:** There are no other nominations.

*Mr Jamie Stone was chosen as convener.*

### Deputy Convener

14:18

**The Convener (Mr Jamie Stone):** Thank you, Ian. I also thank committee members for their resounding expression of confidence in my convenership. I was touched and moved when Nicol Stephen offered me this august post. We are close friends.

Agenda item 3 is the selection of deputy convener. I ask for nominations for the post.

**Ian McKee (Lothians) (SNP):** I propose Gil Paterson.

**The Convener:** There are no other nominations.

*Gil Paterson was chosen as deputy convener.*

**The Convener:** I congratulate Gil Paterson. Are you happy to remain seated where you are?

**Gil Paterson:** This is fine, thank you.

## Work Programme

14:20

**The Convener:** We move on to agenda item 4, which is consideration of the committee's approach to developing a work programme. I refer members to the clerk's note and suggest that we consider the work programme at an away day. Members have received copies of the previous committee's legacy paper and of the Executive's response to our predecessor's inquiry into the regulatory framework. A copy of the full inquiry report is in members' briefing packs.

Do members have comments on the approach to developing the work programme?

**Gil Paterson:** I need to take advice from the clerks about the away day's timing. My view is that it should be earlier—towards the end of August—rather than later, so that I can understand some of the finer points of the committee's work. Rather than getting a handle on the work through doing it, I would feel more comfortable if I knew a bit more about how the committee works, so the away day should be sooner rather than later.

**The Convener:** We have one meeting, which will happen next week, before the recess. That will be a proper meeting at which we will get a flavour of our work, but that is all that members will have. I am not averse to Gil Paterson's suggestion of holding the away day early—at the end of the recess, which is the end of August.

**Elaine Smith:** An away day is the obvious way forward, particularly when we have new members and a new session of Parliament. Other committees have tended to schedule away days at the end of August.

Who else will be invited to the away day? Will people be invited for sessions on the previous committee's inquiry, for example? I am interested in the make-up of the away day.

**Jackson Carlaw:** I have nothing particular to add. This is all new territory for me.

**Ian McKee:** It is just a matter of fixing dates—arrangements might already have been made—but I presume that we can do that.

**The Convener:** Very well. We will leave that to the clerk, who can liaise with members and put something in place.

I imagine that, at the away day, we shall start to consider issues in the legacy paper, which we have touched on, such as the inquiry into the regulatory framework. Although that inquiry was our predecessor committee's property, it might stimulate thought as we go through the weeks, months and years ahead.

The committee's next meeting is on Tuesday 26 June, when we shall consider statutory instruments. Without further ado, I think that I can close the meeting, after which we will discuss informally some of the tasks that lie before us.

**Ian McKee:** I have some questions—perhaps I missed something in the papers that were given to me. The legacy paper refers to responses that were awaited in the second parliamentary session and I do not think that I saw them in the paperwork. Did they arrive?

**Gillian Baxendine (Clerk):** The Executive's response to the inquiry report came after the legacy paper was finalised. That is the response that was referred to and it is included in members' papers for today's meeting.

**Ian McKee:** Right. I will dig into that.

**The Convener:** In sessions gone by, the committee was rather a band of brothers and sisters who worked together. The subject is rather *recherché* but, in the new session, the committee may play a slightly more central role in the Parliament's work. The committee is good natured and we have an excellent team of members with whom I look forward to working.

*Meeting closed at 14:23.*

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