SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday 21 April 2009

Session 3

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SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE 13th Meeting 2009, Session 3

CONVENER

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

DEPUTY CONVENER

*lan McKee (Lothians) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Jackson Carlaw (West of Scotland) (Con) *Malcolm Chisholm (Edinburgh North and Leith) (Lab) *Bob Doris (Glasgow) (SNP) *Helen Eadie (Dunfermline East) (Lab) *Tom McCabe (Hamilton South) (Lab)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Bill Aitken (Glasgow) (Con) Ross Finnie (West of Scotland) (LD) Christopher Harvie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP) Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Lab)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Shelagh McKinlay

ASSISTANT CLERK

Jake Thomas

LOC ATION Committee Room 6

Scottish Parliament

Subordinate Legislation Committee

Tuesday 21 April 2009

[THE CONVENER opened the meeting at 14:15]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Jamie Stone): Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the Subordinate Legislation Committee's 13th meeting in 2009. We have received no apologies—we have a full house. I hope that members had a restful break over Easter. I ask everybody to turn off mobile phones and BlackBerrys.

Agenda item 1 is to consider whether to take business in private. It is proposed that, under agenda item 6, we consider our approach to our scheduled evidence session with the Minister for Parliamentary Business on the draft interpretation and legislative reform (Scotland) bill. Because of the nature of the discussion, it would be best if we took it in private. Is that okay?

Members indicated agreement.

Coroners and Justice Bill

14:15

The Convener: Agenda item 2 is consideration of a legislative consent motion on the Coroners and Justice Bill. Are we content to report to the lead committee that the effect of clause 41 of the bill is that the Scottish ministers may make rules, under section 7 of the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976, in respect of the investigation of the deaths of service personnel who are on active service abroad and the deaths of civilians who are subject to service discipline and who are accompanying personnel on active service abroad, and that any such rules, or amendment of the existing rules under the 1976 act, will not be subject to parliamentary procedure?

Members indicated agreement.

Draft Instrument subject to Approval

Scotland Act 1998 (Modification of Schedule 4) Order 2009 (Draft)

14:16

The committee agreed that no points arose on the instrument.

Instruments subject to Annulment

Justice of the Peace Courts (Sheriffdom of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway) Order 2009 (SSI 2009/115)

14:16

The Convener: Are members content to draw the order to the attention of the lead committee and the Parliament on the ground that there are drafting errors in articles 7(9) and 7(10)(b), although it is not considered likely that those errors affect the operation of the order?

Members indicated agreement.

Charities and Benevolent Fundraising (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/121)

The Convener: Do we agree that the explanation that the Scottish Government provided—that the purpose of the regulations is the regulation of fundraising—is satisfactory and, if so, are we content to report the regulations to the lead committee and the Parliament on the ground that a response has been provided by the Government to the committee with which it may be satisfied?

Members indicated agreement.

Helen Eadie (Dunfermline East) (Lab): Our legal brief states:

"given the bare level of detail in support of this explanation provided by the Government in its response, the Committee may wish to comment that a more detailed evaluation of the purpose test would have been more helpful."

I would like that to be included in our report to the lead committee.

The Convener: Does anyone have a problem with that?

Members: No.

Diligence against Earnings (Variation) (Scotland) Revocation Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/133)

The Convener: Are we content to report to the Parliament that we find satisfactory for our interests the explanation that the Scottish Government gave in its letter to the Presiding Officer of 27 March 2009 for the failure to comply with article 10(2) of the Scotland Act 1998 (Transitory and Transitional Provisions) (Statutory Instruments) Order 1999 (SSI 1999/1096)? Are we also content to report that we are otherwise content with the regulations?

Members indicated agreement.

National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/124)

The committee agreed that no points arose on the instrument.

Instruments not laid before the Parliament

Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (Commencement No 7, Savings and Transitional Provisions) Order 2009 (SSI 2009/122)

14:19

The Convener: Although it might be considered that there has been a failure to follow proper legislative practice in relation to the order, the Government's response indicates that full consideration appears to have been given to commencement options, including stakeholder engagement in that regard. On that basis, are members content to note the response as acceptable?

Members indicated agreement.

Act of Sederunt (Rules of the Court of Session Amendment No 6) (Building Society Special Administration etc) 2009 (SSI 2009/135)

The committee agreed that no points arose on the instrument.

Ian McKee (Lothians) (SNP): I have a general point that relates to the National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2009. Our legal brief comments that we are on the 15th amendment to the National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Scotland) (No 2) Regulations 2003 (SSI 2003/460) and mentions consolidation. Should we raise that point again, or is it taken for granted, given that we have raised it so many times in the past?

The Convener: I am told by our clerk that the issue will be dealt with in a later report. The point stands that, in the interim, the more we keep raising that consolidation issue, the better—it would be inconsistent not to do so. Notwithstanding that, we will consider the issue in a later report.

We will now move into private. I thank the official report staff.

14:21

Meeting continued in private until 14:35.

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