

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday 8 December 2009

Session 3

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STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

14th 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 4

Scottish Parliament

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Tuesday 8 December 2009

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

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Gil Paterson): Good afternoon and welcome to the 14th meeting in 2009 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. We have received no apologies, but Peter Peacock has another engagement and will arrive a little later.

Item 1 is a decision on whether to take in private items 3 and 4. The committee previously agreed to consider in private item 5, which is a paper on the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Bill. Item 3 is a paper that informs the committee's consideration of its approach to its inquiry into the transparency, financial scrutiny and debate of financial resolutions and amendments. Item 4 is the proposed protocol and guidance on the accuracy of contributions in parliamentary proceedings. This will be the first opportunity that members have had to give their views on the approach to developing the protocol and guidance.

Do I have members' approval to take items 3 and 4 in private?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Cross-party Group

14:16

The Convener: Item 2 is a decision on whether to recognise the proposed cross-party group on digital participation.

I have a couple of questions about how the group has been set up, which I will put on record. I note that on the registration form a non-MSP individual member is described as a researcher from the Scottish Parliament, but I understand that the person is a member of MSP staff and is not employed by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body. I suggest that the description be amended to make that clear—we will make that suggestion in writing. We have also asked questions about the finances of the group. We have received most of the answers that we sought, but we anticipate some additional information.

I recommend that the committee recognise the group.

Dave Thompson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP): I should say that I am a member of the group.

The Convener: That is fine. Are members happy to recognise the group?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: Thank you.

14:17

Meeting continued in private until 15:13.

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