



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Official Report

END OF LIFE ASSISTANCE (SCOTLAND) BILL COMMITTEE

Tuesday 2 March 2010

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END OF LIFE ASSISTANCE (SCOTLAND) BILL COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2010, Session 3

CONVENER

*Ross Finnie (West of Scotland) (LD)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Ian McKee (Lothians) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Helen Eadie (Dunfermline East) (Lab)

*Michael Matheson (Falkirk West) (SNP)

*Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con)

*Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Douglas Thornton

LOCATION

Committee Room 4

Scottish Parliament

Convener

End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill Committee

Tuesday 2 March 2010

[The Oldest Committee Member *opened the meeting at 10:35*]

Interests

Ian McKee (Oldest Committee Member):

Welcome to the first meeting of the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill Committee, which I am convening in my position as the oldest committee member. In fact, I have now convened three committees in this session, which is probably a small record. Unfortunately, I have been in the role of convener for a total of about four minutes.

I ask committee members and members of the public to ensure that mobile phones, pagers and BlackBerrys are turned off. We have received no apologies for the meeting.

The first item of business is to declare interests that are relevant to the committee's remit, in accordance with section 3 of the code of conduct for members of the Scottish Parliament. I will begin by declaring that I have no interests to declare other than those recorded in my entry in the register of members' interests, which is on the Parliament's website.

Ross Finnie (West of Scotland) (LD):

Likewise, I have no interests to declare other than those in my entry in the register of members' interests.

Helen Eadie (Dunfermline East) (Lab): I have no interests to declare other than those in my entry in the register of members' interests.

Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab): I have no interests to declare other than those in my entry in the register of members' interests.

Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con): I have no interests to declare other than those in my entry in the register of members' interests.

Michael Matheson (Falkirk West) (SNP): I have no interests to declare other than those in my entry in the register of members' interests.

10:36

Ian McKee: Item 2 is to choose the committee convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Liberal Democrats are eligible for nomination as committee convener. I seek nominations for the post of convener.

Cathy Peattie: I nominate Ross Finnie.

Ross Finnie was chosen as convener.

Deputy Convener

10:37

The Convener (Ross Finnie): It was good of the committee to decide to have a younger convener.

Michael Matheson: It is marginal.

The Convener: Very. Anyway, let us move swiftly on to item 3, which is to choose a deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible to be chosen as deputy convener of the committee. Can I have nominations for deputy convener?

Michael Matheson: I nominate Ian McKee.

Ian McKee was chosen as deputy convener.

Ian McKee: Thank you.

The Convener: That averages the age of the convener and deputy convener.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:38

The Convener: Item 4 is to consider whether to take in private item 5, which is consideration of the committee's approach to the scrutiny of the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill.

I should explain for the benefit of members of the public that it is the standard practice of every parliamentary committee to consider such issues in private, because it enables the committee to have a frank discussion on handling and procedures, and how best to ensure that we give the maximum possible scrutiny to the bill in accordance with those procedures. Consideration in private also allows us to discuss the type of approach to take.

I therefore propose that we take item 5 in private. Is that agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: My apologies to members of the public, but that ends the public session of the committee on this occasion. A date for the next meeting of the committee will be published on the Parliament's website.

10:39

Meeting continued in private until 11:13.

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