



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Official Report

END OF LIFE ASSISTANCE (SCOTLAND) BILL COMMITTEE

Tuesday 20 April 2010

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END OF LIFE ASSISTANCE (SCOTLAND) BILL COMMITTEE
2nd 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

End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill Committee

Tuesday 20 April 2010

[The Convener *opened the meeting at 12:35*]

The Convener (Ross Finnie): I welcome everyone to the second meeting of the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill Committee. We have apologies from Cathy Peattie who, unfortunately, was involved in a small accident this morning. I understand that she is well, but I am sure that we hope that she gets over even the mild shock of being involved in any such incident.

Before we move to consideration of the formal agenda, and for the purposes of the *Official Report*, it might be helpful if I put on record what has been going on since our last meeting, because most of the business has been taken in private. At our first meeting, we made a number of decisions about our scrutiny of the bill that were published in the minutes of that meeting. They included decisions to issue a 10-week call for written evidence from the public and to appoint a committee adviser.

The committee duly launched the call for written evidence on Thursday 4 March, and I am pleased to say that we have already received submissions from members of the public and other interested parties. The closing date for the receipt of submissions is Wednesday 12 May. They will be considered by the committee and published on our website during the weeks following that date.

Once the committee has had the opportunity to consider all the written evidence, we will decide who to invite to give oral evidence on the bill. I expect that consideration to take three or four weeks, but it depends on the volume of written evidence that we receive. As a result, it is likely that we will start to take oral evidence on the bill in September, after the Parliament's summer recess.

As members will have noted, the Parliament has set an end date of Wednesday 24 November 2010 for the completion of stage 1 of the bill, including the committee's report to the Parliament, and the Parliament's debate and decision on the general principles of the bill.

Decisions on Taking Business in Private

12:37

The Convener: The first item on the agenda is to consider whether to take business in private. As members are aware, it is standard practice for committees to consider in private issues such as the appointment of an adviser, as discussion of the personal details and qualifications of individuals might be involved. For clarification, any decisions reached by the committee in private session will, of course, be recorded and published in our minutes.

Do I have members' agreement to consider agenda items 2 and 3 in private?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Do members also agree to consider the committee's approach to stage 1 scrutiny of the bill in private at future meetings?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: In that case, we will pause to allow the official report and broadcasting to conclude, and any members of the public to leave.

12:38

Meeting continued in private until 13:12.

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