



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Official Report

RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 January 2010

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RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2010, Session 3

CONVENER

*Maureen Watt (North East Scotland) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*John Scott (Ayr) (Con)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Karen Gillon (Clydesdale) (Lab)

*Liam McArthur (Orkney) (LD)

*Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP)

*Elaine Murray (Dumfries) (Lab)

*Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

*Bill Wilson (West of Scotland) (SNP)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

Rhona Brankin (Midlothian) (Lab)

Jim Hume (South of Scotland) (LD)

Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con)

Sandra White (Glasgow) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Peter McGrath

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Roz Wheeler

ASSISTANT CLERK

Lori Gray

LOCATION

Committee Room 4

Scottish Parliament

Rural Affairs and Environment Committee

Thursday 7 January 2010

[The Convener opened the meeting at 12:45]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Maureen Watt): I welcome everyone to the committee's first meeting of 2010 and formally wish everyone a happy new year. I ask members to turn off their mobile phones and pagers. This should be a relatively short meeting.

The first item of business is a decision on whether to take agenda item 3 in private—it is the consideration of candidates for appointment as our adviser for stage 1 scrutiny of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill. Does the committee agree to take item 3 in private?

Members indicated agreement.

Subordinate Legislation

Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/412)

12:46

The Convener: Agenda item 2 is consideration of one negative instrument, the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2009. The Subordinate Legislation Committee has commented on the instrument and an extract of the relevant report is in paper RAE/S3/10/1/2. No member of the committee has raised any concerns and no motions to annul have been lodged. Do members have any comments?

Members: No.

The Convener: Does the committee agree not to make any recommendations in relation to Scottish statutory instrument 2009/412 as detailed on the agenda?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: For the record, I should say that it had previously been thought that the committee would also be considering the Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks (Scotland) Order 2009 (SSI 2009/417) at today's meeting. However, the Subordinate Legislation Committee ascertained that the instrument was not subject to parliamentary procedure and therefore should not have been laid before the Parliament at all. Accordingly, there is no need for the committee to consider the instrument.

John Scott (Ayr) (Con): I am somewhat dismayed by that. It does not reflect well on the Government that it does not know whether it should bring such instruments before the Parliament and that it requires the Subordinate Legislation Committee to point out that there is no need to do that. That does not fill one with confidence.

Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP): On the other hand, there was a late change to the instrument that brought it outwith the scope of what would have had to come before us.

John Scott: But it was written in the original papers; it was just misunderstood to begin with. That is how I read the papers.

The Convener: Your comments have been duly noted.

12:47

Meeting continued in private until 12:58.

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