

The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Official Report

RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 18 April 2012

Session 4

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RURAL AFFAIRS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 11th Meeting 2012, Session 4

CONVENER

*Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Annabelle Ewing (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Lab) *Graeme Dey (Angus South) (SNP) *Alex Fergusson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Con) *Jim Hume (South Scotland) (LD) Richard Lyle (Central Scotland) (SNP) Margaret McDougall (West Scotland) (Lab) *Dennis Robertson (Aberdeenshire West) (SNP)

*attended

THE FOLLOWING ALSO PARTICIPATED:

Nigel Don (Angus North and Mearns) (SNP) (Committee Substitute)

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Lynn Tullis

LOCATION

Committee Room 4

Scottish Parliament

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

Wednesday 18 April 2012

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:00]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Rob Gibson): Welcome to the 11th meeting in 2012 of the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee. Members and the public should turn off their mobile phones and BlackBerrys, as leaving them in flight mode or on silent will affect the broadcasting system.

I have received apologies from Richard Lyle and Margaret McDougall.

Agenda item 1 is a decision on taking business in private. Are we agreed to take in private agenda item 3, which concerns draft correspondence on the common agricultural policy?

Members indicated agreement.

Interests

The Convener: I welcome Alex Fergusson back to the committee and put on record the committee's thanks to John Lamont, whose stay was unfortunately short.

As a previous member of the committee, Alex Fergusson made a declaration of interests at the start of the parliamentary session. However, I invite him to make another declaration if there have been any changes.

Alex Fergusson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Con): I have no changes to declare.

The Convener: Thank you very much.

Alex Fergusson: Thank you for your welcome.

The Convener: Not at all.

I also welcome Nigel Don, who is attending as a committee substitute, and invite him to declare any relevant interests.

Nigel Don (Angus North and Mearns) (SNP): I do not think that I have any interests to declare but, as always, I draw attention to my entry in the register of members' interests.

The Convener: Thank you.

Public Body Consent Memorandum

Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances (Abolition) Order 2012 [Draft]

10:01

The Convener: Agenda item 2 concerns public bodies consent. We are asked to consider a Scottish Government memorandum relating to the draft Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances (Abolition) Order 2012. It is a United Kingdom order, and the Scottish Parliament must give its consent to it.

I refer members to paper RACCE/S4/12/11/1 and invite them to decide whether the committee agrees to recommend to the Parliament that the draft motion as set out in the public body consent memorandum be approved.

Are there any comments?

Graeme Dey (Angus South) (SNP): We might seek clarity on what input, if any, the Scottish Government will have to the setting-up of the proposed new scientific committee and its makeup.

The Convener: Those are questions that we would have to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Do members have any other questions about the memorandum? It is an interim measure and is novel in that it is, I think, only the second one that the Parliament has considered. We will have to take this as we go, but the process is very much like that for the legislative consent motions that have gone through before.

If nobody has any other points to make, do we agree to recommend to the Parliament that the draft motion be approved?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Thank you very much.

10:03

Meeting continued in private until 11:18.

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