



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Official Report

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

Thursday 20 September 2012

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**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**16<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2012, Session 4**

**CONVENER**

\*Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Lab)

**DEPUTY CONVENER**

\*Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (SNP)

\*John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)

\*Annabel Goldie (West Scotland) (Con)

\*Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Lab)

\*Dennis Robertson (Aberdeenshire West) (SNP)

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Douglas Thornton

**LOCATION**

Committee Room 4



## Scottish Parliament

### Equal Opportunities Committee

*Thursday 20 September 2012*

[The Convener *opened the meeting at 09:00*]

#### Interests

**The Convener (Mary Fee):** Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Equal Opportunities Committee's 16th meeting in 2012. I remind everyone to switch off mobile phones or to set them to silent. I welcome Marco Biagi to his first meeting of the committee. You are very welcome, and we look forward to working with you in the next few months, or however long you might be here.

Agenda item 1—

**Dennis Robertson (Aberdeenshire West) (SNP):** Convener, before we move on to that, could we perhaps record our thanks to Stuart McMillan?

**The Convener:** Yes, certainly. Stuart has been a valuable member of the committee, and it is fitting that we record our thanks to him.

Agenda item 1 is a declaration of interests. In accordance with section 3 of the code of conduct, I ask Marco Biagi to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee's remit.

**Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (SNP):** I have no relevant interests.

## Deputy Convener

09:01

**The Convener:** Agenda item 2 is the choice of our deputy convener. On 1 June 2011, the Parliament agreed that Scottish National Party members are eligible to be chosen as the deputy convener of the Equal Opportunities Committee. I ask for nominations for the position.

**Dennis Robertson:** I propose Jean Urquhart.

**The Convener:** Do we have a seconder for that?

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (SNP):** Yes—I second that.

**The Convener:** Are there any other nominations for the position of deputy convener?

**Annabel Goldie (West Scotland) (Con):** Who is proposed, convener? It is just so that I can give the matter serious consideration.

**The Convener:** Dennis Robertson has proposed Jean Urquhart.

**Annabel Goldie:** That is entirely acceptable to me. I was just adding a little colour to the occasion.

**The Convener:** One nomination has been received. I ask the committee to agree that Jean Urquhart be chosen as deputy convener.

*Jean Urquhart was chosen as deputy convener.*

**The Convener:** I congratulate Jean Urquhart on her new position.

**Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (SNP):** Thank you.

**The Convener:** We now move into private session.

09:02

*Meeting continued in private until 11:28.*



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