



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Official Report

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Thursday 27 September 2012

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STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE
12th Meeting 2012, Session 4

CONVENER

*Dave Thompson (Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Helen Eadie (Cowdenbeath) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Brian Adam (Aberdeen Donside) (SNP)

*John Lamont (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Con)

*John Mason (Glasgow Shettleston) (SNP)

*Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Lab)

*Fiona McLeod (Strathkelvin and Bearsden) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Gillian Baxendine

Alison Walker

LOCATION

Committee Room 1

Scottish Parliament

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 27 September 2012

[The Convener *opened the meeting at 09:30*]

Interests

The Convener (Dave Thompson): Good morning everyone, and welcome to the 12th meeting in 2012 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. I remind members to turn off mobile phones and BlackBerrys.

We have new members—Brian Adam and John Mason—who are very welcome. I invite them to declare any relevant interests.

Brian Adam (Aberdeen Donside) (SNP): Thank you for your welcome. Other than what appears in the register of members' interests, I do not think that I have relevant interests to declare.

This is something of a return to the committee for me; it might be of interest to members to know that I was convener of predecessor standards committees some time ago and that I piloted the Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Bill through in a previous parliamentary session. I note that we are likely to re-examine interests, so I hope that members will not hold that against me.

The Convener: Thank you. I hope that we will not undo all the good work that you did. Time will tell.

John Mason (Glasgow Shettleston) (SNP): Thank you for your welcome, convener. I have been thinking about what I should declare at this stage. I am a chartered accountant and member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, and I am on the institute's ethics committee. I imagine that there will be no conflict in that regard and that we will be going in the same direction.

It might be useful to say that when I was a councillor I was suspended for nine months for breaching the code of conduct for councillors. I can expand on that if anyone wants to know more. I think that that might be of interest.

The Convener: I do not think that we have a couple of hours just now, John. Thank you for that.

You are both very welcome.

Decisions on Taking Business in Private

09:32

The Convener: Item 2 is a decision on whether to take business in private. Do members agree to take in private item 4, which relates to our inquiry into section 7 of the "Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament"?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: Item 3 is another decision on whether to take business in private. Do members agree that our consideration of a draft report on the review of section 7 of the code of conduct should be in private at future meetings?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: That concludes the public part of our business—I apologise to the people who have just joined us in the public seats.

09:33

Meeting continued in private until 10:51.

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