



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Official Report

# STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Thursday 15 January 2015



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**STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2015, Session 4**

**CONVENER**

\*Stewart Stevenson (Banffshire and Buchan Coast) (SNP)

**DEPUTY CONVENER**

\*Margaret McDougall (West Scotland) (Lab)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*George Adam (Paisley) (SNP)

\*Cameron Buchanan (Lothian) (Con)

\*Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Lab)

\*Gil Paterson (Clydebank and Milngavie) (SNP)

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

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Gillian Baxendine  
Alison Walker

**LOCATION**

The David Livingstone Room (CR6)



## Scottish Parliament

### Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

*Thursday 15 January 2015*

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

#### Interests

**The Convener (Stewart Stevenson):** I welcome members to the first meeting in 2015 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. I remind everyone to switch off mobile phones as they may affect the broadcasting system.

Under agenda item 1, I invite our new members to declare relevant interests. We have Patricia Ferguson, who is replacing Cara Hilton, and Gil Paterson, who is replacing Fiona McLeod. It is appropriate at this stage to record the committee's thanks to Fiona and Cara for their hard work as members of the committee. I am sure that our new members will be equally hard working—and if not, well.

I welcome Patricia Ferguson to the committee and invite her to declare any relevant interests.

**Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Lab):** Thank you, convener. I have no relevant interests to declare.

**The Convener:** Thank you. I welcome Gil Paterson to the committee and invite him to declare any relevant interests.

**Gil Paterson (Clydebank and Milngavie) (SNP):** Thank you. I have no relevant interests.

**The Convener:** Thank you.

## Decision on Taking Business in Private

09:31

**The Convener:** Under agenda item 2, the committee must decide whether its consideration of its work programme and the written evidence received in its inquiry into elected conveners should be taken in private at future meetings. Do members agree to that?

**Members indicated agreement.**

**The Convener:** Thank you.

## Cross-party Group

09:31

**The Convener:** Agenda item 3 is a discussion on the membership of the cross-party group on video games technology. Members will see from paper 1 that the group does not comply with section 6.4.1 of the code of conduct as it does not have an MSP member from the Conservative Party.

At my request, the clerks contacted John Lamont MSP, in his capacity as the Conservative Party's business manager, to ask whether there were any issues other than the volume of groups that the Conservative MSPs are already members of. John Lamont has confirmed that the Conservative Party would be happy for the group to exist without a Conservative Party member. The group has managed to secure a member from the Green and Independent group.

Do members have any comments on the paper?

**Members:** No.

**The Convener:** I invite members to consider whether they are content on this occasion to waive the requirement that a group's membership must include at least one MSP from each of the parties or groups that are represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. Are we content?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** Thank you. That ends the public part of the meeting.

09:32

*Meeting continued in private until 11:10.*

Members who would like a printed copy of the *Official Report* to be forwarded to them should give notice to SPICe.

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