



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Wednesday 23 June 2021

Session 6



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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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CONTENTS

	Col.
INTERESTS	1
CONVENER	2
DEPUTY CONVENER	3
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE	4
LEGACY PAPER	5

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2021, Session 6

CONVENER

*Neil Gray (Airdrie and Shotts) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Natalie Don (Renfrewshire North and West) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Jeremy Balfour (Lothian) (Con)

*Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Con)

*Foyso! Choudhury (Lothian) (Lab)

*Pam Duncan-Glancy (Glasgow) (Lab)

*Marie McNair (Clydebank and Milngavie) (SNP)

*Emma Roddick (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Rebecca Macfie

Claire Menzies

LOCATION

Virtual Meeting

Scottish Parliament

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Wednesday 23 June 2021

[Foyso Choudhury opened the meeting at 11:17]

Interests

Foyso Choudhury (Lothian) (Lab): Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the first meeting in session 6 of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee. As the oldest member of the committee, I have the pleasure of convening the meeting for the first two items of business. I take this opportunity to welcome all members. I look forward to working with you all.

Before we move to the first item on the agenda, I remind everyone to switch off mobile phones—I hope that everyone has done that already. We do not have any apologies.

The first agenda item is declarations of interests. I do not have any interests to declare. I will now go to members in alphabetical order.

Jeremy Balfour (Lothian) (Con): I point out that I am on the high rate of personal independence payment for care.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Con): I have no interests to declare.

Natalie Don (Renfrewshire North and West) (SNP): I declare that I am a councillor on Renfrewshire Council, just in case any of the matters that we discuss coincide with that.

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Glasgow) (Lab): I have two interests that I would like to declare. The first is that I worked for Public Health Scotland until 11 May, at which point I was elected and resigned the post. In addition, I am in receipt of the higher rate of personal independence payment for both the care and the mobility components.

Neil Gray (Airdrie and Shotts) (SNP): I need to declare that I was the deputy convener of the Social Justice and Fairness Commission, which reported earlier this year. I have no further declarations to make.

Marie McNair (Clydebank and Milngavie) (SNP): I have no interests to declare.

Emma Roddick (Highlands and Islands) (SNP): I, too, worked on the Social Justice and Fairness Commission and I am a councillor on the Highland Council.

Convener

11:19

Foyso Choudhury: Under agenda item 2, the committee's next task is to choose a convener. Members have paper 2, which explains the procedure. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as convener of the committee. I understand that Neil Gray is that party's nominee.

Neil Gray was chosen as convener.

Foyso Choudhury: Congratulations, Neil. We have our convener. I now hand over to you. I will be happy to work with you.

The Convener (Neil Gray): Thank you, Foyso. I will seek to emulate your expert chairing of the first part of our meeting.

I really appreciate the task that we have in hand and I appreciate the support of colleagues in being chosen as the convener of this important committee. I look forward to working with you all constructively to take forward the work of the committee and to scrutinise some of the most important legislation that we will see in this session of Parliament. Thank you very much indeed.

Deputy Convener

11:21

The Convener: The next agenda item is to choose our deputy convener. Similarly, the Parliament has agreed that only members of the SNP are eligible for nomination as deputy convener. I understand that Natalie Don is the party's nominee for the post.

Natalie Don was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Congratulations, Natalie.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

11:21

The Convener: The next item of business is to decide whether to discuss our work programme, which is agenda item 6, in private. Do members agree to do so?

If anyone wishes to comment, please type "R" in the chat box. If not, we will move on. We are agreed.

Legacy Paper

11:22

The Convener: Agenda item 5 is consideration of the legacy paper from our predecessor committee. I thank the session 5 Social Security Committee for its legacy report. It clearly did extensive and detailed work in the previous session. As we are short of time at this meeting, I invite the committee to note the report for now and to agree to consider it as part of a future work programme discussion. However, if anyone wishes to speak, I would be happy to hear from them.

As nobody wants to come in, it seems that we are happy to note the report.

That concludes the public part of today's meeting. We now move into private session.

11:23

Meeting continued in private until 12:17.

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