



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 20 April 2023

Session 6



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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CONTENTS

	Col.
INTERESTS	1
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE	1
SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION	2
Scottish Local Government Elections Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/81).....	2

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE
6th Meeting 2023, Session 6

CONVENER

*Martin Whitfield (South Scotland) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Bob Doris (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Emma Harper (South Scotland) (SNP)

*Edward Mountain (Highlands and Islands) (Con)

*Alexander Stewart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Katy Orr

LOCATION

The Sir Alexander Fleming Room (CR3)

Scottish Parliament

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 20 April 2023

[The Convener opened the meeting at 09:30]

Interests

The Convener (Martin Whitfield): Good morning, and welcome to the sixth meeting of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee in 2023.

Our first agenda item is to welcome a new committee member, Emma Harper. I invite her to declare any interests.

Emma Harper (South Scotland) (SNP): Thank you and good morning. It is nice to be here. I have no interests to declare.

The Convener: That is excellent. Thank you.

Having Emma join us means that we have lost a committee member, Collette Stevenson, who has moved on to other things. I place on record my thanks and those of the committee to Collette for her work. Are members happy for me to write to Collette to thank her for her time on the committee?

Members indicated agreement.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

09:30

The Convener: Our second agenda item is a decision to take agenda items 4 and 5 in private. Agenda item 4 is consideration of a change to standing orders, and agenda item 5 is consideration of a report that we have received from the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. Do members agree to take those agenda items in private?

Members indicated agreement.

Subordinate Legislation

Scottish Local Government Elections Amendment Regulations 2023 (SSI 2023/81)

09:31

The Convener: Agenda item 3 is for the committee to take evidence on Scottish statutory instrument 2023/81, the Scottish Local Government Elections Amendment Regulations 2023. We have received information about the instrument in our meeting papers. Do any members wish to comment on the proposed regulations?

Bob Doris (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (SNP): I welcome the regulations, which amend schedule 6A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and mean that there will be reciprocal candidacy rights with four European nations. I place on record my hope that those rights will be extended in short order to all European Union nationals who have made their home in Scotland. It is a pity and a shame that we are in a situation where we can do that for only four nations because of Brexit. There may be a policy drift.

I will leave it there. I am content with and agree to the provisions before us.

The Convener: Excellent. As those who are watching may be aware, the committee is very aware of the treaty arrangements, having discussed those at a number of previous meetings.

As no other members wish to comment, are members content to note the instrument and to agree to make no recommendations?

Members indicated agreement.

09:32

Meeting continued in private until 10:22.

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