



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Tuesday 26 March 2024

Session 6



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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DELEGATED POWERS AND LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

11th Meeting 2024, Session 6

CONVENER

*Stuart McMillan (Greenock and Inverclyde) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Foyso Choudhury (Lothian) (Lab)

*Tim Eagle (Highlands and Islands) (Con)

*Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Greg Black

LOCATION

The Adam Smith Room (CR5)

Scottish Parliament
Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Tuesday 26 March 2024

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:02]

Interests

The Convener (Stuart McMillan): Good morning, and welcome to the 11th meeting in 2024 of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee. I remind everyone to switch off or put to silent mobile phones and other electronic devices.

The first item of business is a declaration of interests. In accordance with section 3 of the code of conduct, I invite Tim Eagle MSP to declare any interests that are relevant to the remit of the committee.

Tim Eagle (Highlands and Islands) (Con): Thank you, convener, and apologies that I cannot be with you today—lambing is keeping me at home. The only interest that I probably should declare is that I run a small sheep farm, and I am a sole trader for that. I just bring that to the committee's attention.

The Convener: Thank you very much. I welcome you to the committee and I look forward to working with you.

Before we move on to the next item on the agenda, I take this opportunity, on behalf of the committee, to thank Jeremy Balfour MSP for his hard-working contribution to the committee. Jeremy recognised the importance of the committee's work and he worked diligently as a committee member. It is fair to say that he made a hugely valuable contribution to the committee in his time here. I think that we would all like to wish Jeremy well in the future.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:03

The Convener: The next item of business is to decide whether to take items 5, 6 and 7 in private. Is the committee content to take those items in private?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Instruments subject to Negative Procedure

10:03

The Convener: Under agenda item 3, we are considering two instruments, on which no points have been raised.

Police Pension Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/80)

Meat Preparations (Import Conditions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/81)

The Convener: Is the committee content with the instruments?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Instruments not subject to Parliamentary Procedure

10:03

The Convener: Under agenda item 4, we are considering two instruments, on which no points have been raised.

Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 (Commencement No 13 and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/79 (C 7))

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 (Commencement and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/82 (C 8))

The Convener: I believe that Oliver Mundell would like to make a contribution.

Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Con): Thank you, convener. I want to place on the record that I remain strongly opposed to the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021. I think that the legislation undermines free speech and I believe that it should not be subject to commencement when serious concerns remain about how it will be policed in practice.

The Convener: You have put your comments on the record.

Is the committee content with the instruments?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: With that, I move the committee into private.

10:04

Meeting continued in private until 10:51.

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