



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Public Audit Committee

Thursday 16 June 2016

Session 5



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Information on the Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website - www.parliament.scot or by contacting Public Information on 0131 348 5000

Thursday 16 June 2016

CONTENTS

	Col.
INTERESTS	1
CONVENER	2
DEPUTY CONVENER	2
WORK PROGRAMME	3

PUBLIC AUDIT COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2016, Session 5

CONVENER

*Jenny Marra (North East Scotland) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Alison Harris (Central Scotland) (Con)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Colin Beattie (Midlothian North and Musselburgh) (SNP)

*Jenny Gilruth (Mid Fife and Glenrothes) (SNP)

*Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Con)

*Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Lab)

*Alex Neil (Airdrie and Shotts) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Joanne Clinton

LOCATION

The David Livingstone Room (CR6)

Scottish Parliament

Public Audit Committee

Thursday 16 June 2016

[Alex Neil opened the meeting at 09:00]

Interests

Alex Neil (Airdrie and Shotts) (SNP): Welcome to the first meeting in this parliamentary session of the Public Audit Committee. Under standing orders, the oldest member of the committee present chairs the first meeting until a convener is appointed—and, unfortunately, that task falls to me. I am sure, though, that I am one of the youngest oldest members doing this task across the Parliament.

We have received no apologies—we expect Jenny Gilruth to catch up with us later.

Agenda item 1 is declaration of interests. As members will see from the agenda, every committee member has to declare any relevant interests at this stage. I also advise members that, in the months and years to come, they should declare any interests that might need to be declared with regard to particular items that come up as part of the committee's business. That will prevent members from getting into any difficulties with our friends in the media.

I will kick off by saying that I have no relevant interests to declare.

Alison Harris (Central Scotland) (Con): I, too, have no relevant interests to declare.

Jenny Marra (North East Scotland) (Lab): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Colin Beattie (Midlothian North and Musselburgh) (SNP): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Con): I am not sure whether I have any relevant interests to declare but, voluntarily and for good order, I will declare that I am director and 100 per cent shareholder in my own business, Trinity Kerr Ltd, and a member of the Law Society of England and Wales and the Law Society of Scotland; I am also a landlord in Edinburgh.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Lab): I draw to the committee's attention that I am a local authority councillor in South Lanarkshire.

Alex Neil: We will obviously need to ask Jenny Gilruth to declare any interests that she might have when she comes along. However, I will leave that up to the new convener.

Convener

09:01

Alex Neil: Agenda item 2 is choice of convener, the procedure for which is explained in paper 2. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Labour Party are eligible for nomination as convener of the committee, and I invite members of that party to nominate one of their members for the post of convener.

Monica Lennon: I nominate Jenny Marra.

Jenny Marra was chosen as convener.

Alex Neil: I congratulate Jenny Marra and hand the chair over to her.

Deputy Convener

09:02

The Convener (Jenny Marra): Good morning. I thank Alex Neil for taking the chair initially and thank the committee and the Parliament for nominating me as convener. It is a great honour.

The committee's next task is to choose a deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of the committee, and I invite members of that party to nominate one of their members for the post of deputy convener.

Liam Kerr: I nominate Alison Harris.

Alison Harris was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Thank you very much indeed. I look forward to working with you, Alison, in the years to come.

Work Programme

09:03

The Convener: Agenda item 4 is consideration of the committee's work programme. With summer recess fast approaching, we have time for just one more meeting, which will be on Thursday 30 June. The committee is invited to agree items of business for that meeting.

A number of reports produced by the Auditor General for Scotland either were published too late for our predecessor committee's consideration or have been published since. The reports are listed in the relevant paper. The practice of the previous committee was to receive briefings from the Auditor General on the majority of her reports in advance of agreeing what, if any, further action to take. It will of course be for us to develop our own approaches in due course.

In the meantime, however, I suggest that we might want to use the time on 30 June to receive briefings from the Auditor General on two of the reports, "Common Agricultural Policy Futures programme: an update" and "Changing models of health and social care", both of which raise serious concerns. Are you content to take that approach for our second meeting?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: Thank you.

At this point, I welcome to the committee Jenny Gilruth MSP, who has just joined us. As the rest of us have declared our interests, I invite Jenny to do so herself.

Jenny Gilruth (Mid Fife and Glenrothes) (SNP): I have none to declare, other than those that have already been declared for the public register.

The Convener: Thank you.

The usual practice for committees at the start of the session is to hold a business planning day towards the end of the summer recess to discuss their work programme, work practices and the predecessor committee's legacy papers and to receive informal briefings. Are you content to hold a business planning day at the end of August or the start of September? If so, are you content for the clerks to bring a draft programme for the business planning day to our next meeting and to contact you about possible dates?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Alex Neil: I want to make just one point, convener. I think that most of the parliamentary groups hold their own meetings round about the same time, and I wonder whether the clerks can

check with the representatives of those groups, as well as with the other committees, to make sure that we do not have any clashes.

The Convener: I think that that would be good. I ask the clerks to liaise with the business managers. Thank you for the suggestion.

That brings our first, and very short, meeting of the Public Audit Committee to a close.

Meeting closed at 09:06.

This is the final edition of the *Official Report* of this meeting. It is part of the Scottish Parliament *Official Report* archive and has been sent for legal deposit.

Published in Edinburgh by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.parliament.scot

Information on non-endorsed print suppliers
is available here:

www.parliament.scot/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000

Textphone: 0800 092 7100

Email: sp.info@parliament.scot



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba