



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 1 November 2018

Session 5



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE
19th Meeting 2018, Session 5

CONVENER

*Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Green)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Jamie Halcro Johnston (Highlands and Islands) (Con)

*Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Con)

*Gil Paterson (Clydebank and Milngavie) (SNP)

*Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Lab)

*Maureen Watt (Aberdeen South and North Kincardine) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Katy Orr

LOCATION

The James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4)

Scottish Parliament

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 1 November 2018

[The Convener opened the meeting in private at 09:30]

09:44

Meeting continued in public.

Complaint

The Convener (Bill Kidd): We move to agenda item 2 of the 19th meeting in 2018 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. The committee has been considering a complaint about a member of the Scottish Parliament, and I will now read out a statement that sets out its findings.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to make the following statement in relation to a complaint against an MSP. The committee has considered a complaint from Gail Ross MSP that Annie Wells MSP sought political advantage by making advance public comment on the Equalities and Human Rights Committee's report on prisoner voting in Scotland, and it is unanimous in the decisions that have been reached on the complaint.

First, the committee agrees with the findings in fact and conclusion of the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland that Annie Wells breached paragraphs 12, 15 and 16 of section 7 of the code of conduct for MSPs by making public press comment in advance of the publication of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee's report.

Secondly, the committee considers that the breaches justify the imposition of sanctions on Annie Wells. I propose that the committee recommends in its report that the Parliament exclude Annie Wells MSP from all meetings of the Parliament and all meetings of its committees for five sitting days.

I invite the committee to agree the proposal.

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: Full details of the complaint and the commissioner's investigation of it will be included in the committee's report, which will be published later this afternoon. Until that time, the report will remain confidential and neither I nor any

other committee member will make further comment until its publication.

That ends the public part of the meeting.

09:46

Meeting continued in private until 10:47.

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.

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