



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Tuesday 22 June 2021

Session 6



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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2021, Session 6

CONVENER

*Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Green)

*Douglas Lumsden (North East Scotland) (Con)

*John Mason (Glasgow Shettleston) (SNP)

*Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)

*Michelle Thomson (Falkirk East) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Joanne McNaughton

LOCATION

Virtual Meeting

Scottish Parliament

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Tuesday 22 June 2021

[John Mason opened the meeting at 09:15]

Interests

John Mason (Glasgow Shettleston) (SNP): Welcome to the first meeting of the Finance and Public Administration Committee in session 6. It falls to me to lead the first two items on the agenda, because I am the oldest member of the committee. It was something of a shock to find out that I am the oldest member of the committee, but there we go.

The committee has seven members. I welcome all members, and I look forward to working with them in the interests of the public. I find the committee work in Parliament to be among the most fulfilling and satisfying things that we do, and I very much look forward to being on a finance committee once again and to working with everybody else.

I remind people to switch off their mobile phones, as they can be heard if your microphones are on. We have received no apologies.

Agenda item 1 is declarations of interests. Each of us has to declare any interests that we have that are relevant to the work of the committee. Background information has been provided to members.

I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. ICAS often has input into the committee, so I thought that I should declare that interest.

Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Michelle Thomson (Falkirk East) (SNP): Good morning, everybody. I am a former employee of Standard Life and of the Royal Bank of Scotland, but I hold no shares in them.

I am a sole trader of Thomson Holdings, which is a property investment company for buy-to-let residential property. I receive some income from that, which is declared in the register of interests.

I am a director of Senza Rit Ltd, which is a property management company for residential property. I receive a benefit in kind in the form of life cover, but I receive no income from that. That is declared in the register of interests.

I am a former adviser to the Northern Ireland Assembly all-party group on fair banking and finance, for which I received no remuneration, and I am a current ambassador of the Westminster all-party parliamentary group for fair business banking, for which I receive no remuneration.

Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Douglas Lumsden (North East Scotland) (Con): I remind everyone that I am still a member of Aberdeen City Council as an elected councillor.

Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Lab): I am a director of, and sole shareholder in, a company that has retail interests. I am a member of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers and of the Community trade union, and I am the vice chair of the ADHD Foundation charity.

Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Green): I do not believe that I have any interests that are relevant to the committee that need to be declared.

Convener

09:19

John Mason: The committee's next task is to choose the convener. The procedure has been explained.

The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as convener of the committee. I ask any member of the Scottish National Party to make a nomination.

Michelle Thomson: I nominate Kenneth Gibson.

Kenneth Gibson was chosen as convener.

John Mason: I congratulate Kenneth Gibson on his appointment. I will hand over to him to convene the rest of the meeting.

Deputy Convener

09:20

The Convener (Kenneth Gibson): Thank you very much, John.

I welcome everyone to the Finance and Public Administration Committee. We see from the papers that have already been distributed that it is going to be a very challenging year and, indeed, that it is going to be a very challenging five years, but I am sure that everyone is ready for the tasks ahead. We have a small but perfectly formed committee, and I am sure that we will all be able to work very well together for the good of the Parliament and the people whom we represent.

Item 3 is to choose the deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Labour Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of the committee. Therefore, I nominate Daniel Johnson as our deputy convener.

Daniel Johnson was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Congratulations, Daniel, and welcome aboard.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

09:21

Meeting continued in private until 09:50.

09:21

The Convener: Item 4 is a decision on taking business in private. Do members agree to take item 5 in private? If anybody disagrees, they should type N in the chat box.

We agree to take item 5 in private.

I put on record my thanks to the Finance and Constitution Committee for its legacy report in session 5, which is very detailed. I am sure that everyone has looked at it, and I know that it will be very helpful to us over the coming months in considering our future work programme.

We will now go into private session for the remainder of the meeting.

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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