



**OFFICIAL REPORT**  
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

# Economy and Fair Work Committee

**Wednesday 23 June 2021**

**Session 6**



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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**ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE**

**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 2021, Session 6**

**CONVENER**

\*Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Lab)

**DEPUTY CONVENER**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- \*Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Con)
- \*Jamie Halcro Johnston (Highlands and Islands) (Con)
- \*Fiona Hyslop (Linlithgow) (SNP)
- \*Gordon MacDonald (Edinburgh Pentlands) (SNP)
- \*Lorna Slater (Lothian) (Green)
- \*Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Lab)
- \*Michelle Thomson (Falkirk East) (SNP)

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Anne Peat

**LOCATION**

Virtual Meeting



# Scottish Parliament

## Economy and Fair Work Committee

Wednesday 23 June 2021

*[Colin Beattie opened the meeting at 11:19]*

### Interests

**Colin Beattie (Midlothian North and Musselburgh) (SNP):** Good morning everyone, and welcome to the first meeting in session 6 of the Economy and Fair Work Committee. I am Colin Beattie, member of the Scottish Parliament for Midlothian North and Musselburgh. As the oldest member of the committee, I have the pleasure of convening the meeting for the first two items of business. I take the opportunity to welcome everybody, and I look forward to working with you all on the committee.

Before we move to the first item, I remind everyone to switch their mobile phones to silent. I note that no apologies have been received.

The first item of business requires each of us to declare any interests that we have that are relevant to the work of the committee. Background information is provided in paper 1, on declaration of interests. I will declare my interests first. As the committee covers tourism, I declare that I am a trustee director of the National Mining Museum Scotland.

I will now go round the other members of the committee in alphabetical order and give you the opportunity to declare your interests as necessary.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Lab):** I declare that I am a member of Unite the union and the Co-operative Party. I am also elected as a Labour and Co-operative Party MSP.

**Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Con):** I refer members to my entry in the register of members' interests. I declare that I have an interest as an owner and manager of property, including agricultural, residential and commercial lettings, recreational and sporting usage and forestry. I am also a shareholder in a construction, development and house-building group and a renewable energy company, and I hold remunerated positions in companies related to those areas.

**Jamie Halcro Johnston (Highlands and Islands) (Con):** I have no specific interests in relation to the work of the committee, but I am a partner in the farming business of J Halcro-

Johnston and Sons in Orkney, and I own a number of properties.

**Fiona Hyslop (Linlithgow) (SNP):** For the purposes of the committee, I note that I was the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture from February 2020 to May 2021.

**Gordon MacDonald (Edinburgh Pentlands) (SNP):** I have no relevant interests that I need to declare, but now that the committee covers the tourism brief, I should say that I am a member of Historic Environment Scotland.

**Lorna Slater (Lothian) (Green):** As per my entry in the register of members' interests, I recently worked at Orbital Marine Power Ltd, which is a tidal energy company, and I therefore received my final payment during my time as an MSP. I am also the trustee of the Edinburgh Remakery, which is a social enterprise. I am a member of Unite the union.

**Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Lab):** I declare that I am a member of the GMB and Unite the union, although those are voluntary declarations. I am also a member of the Co-operative Party as a Scottish Labour and Co-operative Party MSP.

**Michelle Thomson (Falkirk East) (SNP):** I also refer members to my entry in the register of members' interests. I receive income from residential buy-to-let properties and I am a shareholder in a property management company, but I receive only a benefit in kind in the form of life cover and no other income. I am a former MP and I have been asked to continue as an ambassador for a Westminster all-party parliamentary group for fair business banking, for which I receive no income.

## Convener

11:23

**Colin Beattie:** In item 2 it is the committee's task to choose a convener. The procedure is explained in paper 2, on the choice of convener. Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Labour Party are eligible for nomination as convener of the committee. Can we have a nomination from Scottish Labour?

**Colin Smyth:** I nominate Claire Baker.

*Claire Baker was chosen as convener.*

**Colin Beattie:** I congratulate Claire Baker on her appointment. I will swiftly vacate the chair and hand over to her.

## Deputy Convener

11:24

**The Convener (Claire Baker):** Thank you, Colin, and thanks to everybody for supporting me to be convener of this important committee. I am looking forward to taking on the role. As we have moved through the pandemic, there has been a huge impact on our economy and wellbeing, and the committee will have a big part to play in building Scotland's recovery and working with members across Parliament—*[Inaudible.]*

We require to appoint a deputy convener. Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener. I invite members to make their nominations.

**Gordon MacDonald:** I nominate Colin Beattie as deputy convener.

*Colin Beattie was chosen as deputy convener.*

**The Convener:** Thank you. I look forward to working with you. I am sure that we have an interesting session ahead of us.

## Legacy Paper

11:25

**The Convener:** Item 4 is the legacy paper from the former Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee. I thank all the members of that previous committee for a detailed report that will give us a good basis for the work that is ahead of us in this session.

Members are asked to note the legacy report and agree that we can discuss it at a later agenda item.

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

## Decision on Taking Business in Private

11:26

**The Convener:** Item 5 is for the committee to decide to take our remaining business in private. Do members agree that consideration of item 6 will be in private?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

11:26

*Meeting continued in private until 12:25.*



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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