



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Thursday 30 October 2025

Session 6



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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CONTENTS

	Col.
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE	1
DOCUMENT SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL.....	2
Statutory Guidance on Imprints for Non-party Campaigners at Scottish Parliamentary Elections and Council Elections in Scotland (SG 2025/215) [Draft]	2

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE
19th Meeting 2025, Session 6

CONVENER

*Martin Whitfield (South Scotland) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Ruth Maguire (Cunninghame South) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Emma Roddick (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)

Sue Webber (Lothian) (Con)

*Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Con)

*attended

THE FOLLOWING ALSO PARTICIPATED:

Edward Mountain (Highlands and Islands) (Con) (Committee Substitute)

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Catherine Fergusson

LOCATION

The David Livingstone Room (CR6)

Scottish Parliament
Standards, Procedures and
Public Appointments Committee

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[The Convener opened the meeting at 09:33]

Decision on Taking Business in
Private

The Convener (Martin Whitfield): Good morning, and apologies for the slight delay to the start of the 19th meeting in 2025 of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee. I have received apologies from Sue Webber, and I welcome Edward Mountain, who is attending as her substitute.

Under agenda item 1, does the committee agree to take in private item 3, which is consideration of a note from the clerks on cross-party groups?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Document subject to
Parliamentary Control

Statutory Guidance on Imprints for Non-
party Campaigners at Scottish
Parliamentary Elections and Council
Elections in Scotland (SG 2025/215) [Draft]

09:33

The Convener: Our second item of business is consideration of a document that is subject to the negative procedure and that has been referred to this committee for scrutiny on policy grounds.

Questions about the actual rules on imprint would need to be decided on by the Electoral Commission, and the role of this committee is in relation to either accepting or not accepting the guidance.

For clarity on procedure, any MSP may propose, by motion, that the lead committee recommend that the document not be approved. We are the lead committee for this document. If such a motion is lodged, it must be debated at a meeting of the committee, and the committee must then report to the Parliament. If there is no motion recommending that the document not be approved, the committee is not required to report to Parliament on the document.

I invite comments from members on the guidance that is before us.

Emma Roddick (Highlands and Islands) (SNP): There are multiple issues with this guidance. I am not happy with the position—of either take it or leave it—that the committee has been put in, so I would like to move a motion to take this to a vote.

The Convener: Thank you for that. A member has indicated that she will propose a motion, which we will need to debate. That debate cannot happen today, because the motion has not been lodged, but it will take place at the next public meeting of the committee.

Since no other member wishes to make a comment at this stage, I will adjourn the matter until the next public meeting of this committee, when we will see whether a member has lodged a motion.

That concludes our business in public.

09:35

Meeting continued in private until 09:45.

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