



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

COMMITTEE ON THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS

MINUTES

8th Meeting, 2021 (Session 5)

Tuesday 9 February 2021

Present:

Dr Alasdair Allan	Tom Arthur (Committee substitute)
Jackie Baillie	Alex Cole-Hamilton
Linda Fabiani (Convener)	Murdo Fraser
Margaret Mitchell (Deputy Convener)	Maureen Watt
Andy Wightman (Committee substitute)	

Apologies were received from Stuart McMillan.

The meeting opened at 10.18 am.

1. **Work Programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme.

Murdo Fraser proposed that the Committee agrees to publish Mr Salmond's submission on the Ministerial Code phase of the inquiry with appropriate redactions.

The proposal was disagreed to by division: For 4 (Jackie Baillie, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Murdo Fraser, Margaret Mitchell), Against 5 (Alasdair Allan, Tom Arthur, Linda Fabiani, Maureen Watt, Andy Wightman), Abstentions 0.

Maureen Watt proposed that the Committee agrees that, given the legal constraints on it, it is not able to publish any version of Mr Salmond's 31 December 2020 submission on the Ministerial Code.

The proposal was agreed to by division: For 5 (Alasdair Allan, Tom Arthur, Linda Fabiani, Maureen Watt, Andy Wightman), Against 4 (Jackie Baillie, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Murdo Fraser, Margaret Mitchell), Abstentions 0.

Margaret Mitchell proposed that given the Committee cannot reach a unanimous position on the publication of Mr Salmond's submission it should now go to the SPCB for decision.

The proposal was disagreed to by division: For 4 (Jackie Baillie, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Murdo Fraser, Margaret Mitchell), Against 5 (Alasdair Allan, Tom Arthur, Linda Fabiani, Maureen Watt, Andy Wightman), Abstentions 0.

Andy Wightman noted for the record that he is a member of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

Jackie Baillie proposed that the Committee agrees to issue a further section 23 request to the Crown Office, in particular seeking communications between the Chief Executive of the SNP and other SNP officials relevant to the Committee's remit and discussed with Mr Murrell in evidence to the Committee.

The proposal was disagreed to by division: For 4 (Jackie Baillie, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Murdo Fraser, Margaret Mitchell), Against 5 (Alasdair Allan, Tom Arthur, Linda Fabiani, Maureen Watt, Andy Wightman), Abstentions 0.

The Convener asked for the basis of her opposition to the proposal to be minuted. The Convener considered that the request was outwith the Committee's remit.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm.

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