



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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13th Report 2019 (Session 5)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

**Comataidh Inbhean, Dòighean-obrach is Cur-an-dreuchd
Poblach**

Complaint against Rachael Hamilton MSP



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Contents

Introduction	1
Decisions of the Committee	2
Annexe A - Extracts from Minutes	3
Annexe B - Report from the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland	4

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

The remit of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee is to consider and report on—

- (a) the practice and procedures of the Parliament in relation to its business;
- (ab) a proposal for a Bill relating to the arrangements for financial assistance to non-Government political parties represented in the Parliament;
- (b) whether a member's conduct is in accordance with these Rules and any Code of Conduct for members, matters relating to members interests, and any other matters relating to the conduct of members in carrying out their Parliamentary duties;
- (c) the adoption, amendment and application of any Code of Conduct for members; and
- (d) matters relating to public appointments in Scotland;
- (e) matters relating to the regulation of lobbying; and
- (f) matters relating to Scottish general elections falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations.



<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/standards-committee.aspx>



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Tom Mason
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Gil Paterson
Scottish National Party



Elaine Smith
Scottish Labour



Maureen Watt
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Introduction

1. The Committee met on 20 and 27 June 2019 to consider a complaint from Jim Ramage about Rachael Hamilton MSP. The complaint was that Rachael Hamilton failed to make an oral declaration of her registered business interests when participating in a parliamentary debate on 19 February 2019 about the Scottish Government's Rate Resolution.
2. The Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland investigated the complaint and found that Rachael Hamilton had not breached the Code of Conduct for MSPs.
3. Annexe B to this report containing the Commissioner's full report and appendices is incorporated in and forms part of this report.

Decisions of the Committee

4. The Committee has reached a decision on the complaint. It agrees with the conclusion of the Commissioner that Ms Hamilton has not breached the statutory or the Code of Conduct requirements to make an oral declaration of her interests when participating in the parliamentary debate on 19 February 2019.

Annexe A - Extracts from Minutes

11th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5), Thursday 20 June 2019

Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed to take item 3 in private.

Decision on taking business in private: The Committee agreed to take future consideration of a report from the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland, and its own draft report on the complaint, in private at future meetings. The Committee agreed to consider its work programme in private at a future meeting.

Complaint (in private): The Committee undertook its initial consideration of a report from the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.

12th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5), Thursday 27 June 2019

Complaint (in private): The Committee continued its consideration of a report from the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.

Complaint: The Committee announced its decision at Stage 3 on a report from the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.

Complaint (in private): The Committee agreed its draft report.

Annexe B - Report from the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland

[Link to the Report from the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland
\(4.6MB pdf\)](#)

