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by email to:

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Dear MSPs,

### **Parliamentary Bureau Motion S7M-00269 Establishment of Committees**

I am writing to you in your capacity as a member of the Scottish Parliamentary Bureau to seek answers to questions I have about the process of deciding the allocation of Committee Convenorships and Deputy Convenorships as set out in Motion S7M-00269.

In particular I wish to know how exactly it came about that the motion agreed by the Bureau proposed that one party be allocated the Convenor and Deputy Convenor posts on the Finance Committee, the Criminal Justice Committee and the Public Service Reform Committee.

You will be aware that given the motion was put before Parliament with the support of all members of the Bureau, it was difficult politically for any MSP to vote against the motion on the basis that disagreed with the allocation. I note that Craig Hoy MSP raised this matter but the motion was agreed without division. Given this lack of scrutiny, I feel it is incumbent on you to explain how this situation rose. I will be making this letter and your replies public.

My questions are as follows.

Did you as your party's representative on the Bureau agree with this proposal?

Were you aware of any deal that was struck between the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans and any other party or parties agreeing that the SNP would be given both positions?

If you were aware, can you advise me of the nature of the deal?

Did you raise any objection to this proposal?

Why did you agree to propose Motion S7M-00269 when it contained such proposals?

Irrespective of your answers to the above or whether you answer any of these questions at all, can you advise me whether as a matter of principle you think that the Convenor and Deputy Convenor of any Committee should be from the same political party?

If you do not believe that this should be possible should, will you take action to seek a change to Standing Orders to prevent this happening again?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

best wishes

Andy Wightman  
MSP for Lothian 2016 - 2021