

I was glad to take part in the session. It was good to catch up with the others and I can see you have settled well into your new role.

The one issue that prevented me from commenting on relates to written PQ's. You will remember the difficulties MSPs face when trying to obtain straight answers to written questions and in the time frame set by Parliamentary protocols. I would like to see a greater degree of respect for these questions engendered across Government, their SPADS and civil servants to provide for full replies in a timeframe that allows proper scrutiny. I found there was evidence of a cynical delay in some circumstances and a lack of clarity in responses to an extent that hindered true accountability and transparency of Government.

The second issue probably of less significance relates to the volume of Member's motions printed daily in the bulletin. I understand the reasons for many of these motions but one wonders at the relevance and efficacy that attaches to the work and costs involved given the contents on display.

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