

SCOTTISH/SCANDINAVIAN COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

**Organised by the Scottish Parliament and Nordic Policy Studies Centre,
University of Aberdeen**

**Supported by the Economic and Social Research Council's Programme
on 'Devolution and Constitution Change'**

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2004

DRAFT PROGRAMME

9.45am Participants arrive Scottish Parliament, Committee Chambers,
George IV Bridge
Tea/coffee Committee Room 2

10.15am Opening remarks from Trish Godman MSP, Deputy Presiding
Officer and Chair of the Convenors Group

10.30am First session
What have been the objectives of recent committee reforms and
how far have they been achieved?
Committee Room 1

11.30 Break – tea/coffee Committee Room 2

11.45am Second session
How do committees work and does the size of the committee and
committee staff matter?

12.45pm Buffet lunch with a cross-section of parliamentary officials
Committee Room 2

2.00pm Third session
Do the committees have an independent impact on legislation and
what is the role of political parties in committee and parliament as a whole?

3.00pm Break –tea/coffee
Committee room 2

3.15pm Fourth session
Committee Room 1

When are committees at their most/least effective? Are they too open/closed? How can committee performance be evaluated?

4.15pm End of Workshop
Depart Scottish Parliament

Professor David Arter
October 2003