Present:

Christian Allard  Marco Biagi (Deputy Convener)
Mary Fee (Convener)  John Finnie
Alex Johnstone  John Mason

Apologies were received from Siobhan McMahon.

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** The Convener welcomed Christian Allard to the Committee and invited him to declare any relevant interests. Mr Allard declared an interest as a member of Reach, the Association for Children with Upper Limb Deficiency.

2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5, on forthcoming legislation on marriage and civil partnership, in private.

3. **Women and work:** The Committee took evidence from—

   Angela Constance, Minister for Youth Employment, and Julie Ann Bilotti, Employability Policy, Scottish Government;

   Susan Bolt, Team Leader, Early Years, and Eileen Flanagan, Policy Manager, Equality Unit, Scotish Government.

4. **Women and work (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its approach to a draft report.

5. **Forthcoming legislation on marriage and civil partnership (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of a forthcoming bill on marriage and civil partnership and agreed that, at its meeting on 20 June, it would, in private, (a) take a briefing from the Parliament’s solicitor and (b)
consider its approach to taking evidence on the bill.

The meeting closed at 11.33 am.

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