



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

12th Meeting, 2016 (Session 5)

Wednesday 23 November 2016

Present:

Colin Beattie
Ross Greer
Johann Lamont (Deputy Convener)
Fulton MacGregor
Tavish Scott
Ross Thomson

James Dornan (Convener)
Daniel Johnson
Richard Lochhead
Gillian Martin
Liz Smith

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed its consideration of a draft report on LCM (S5) 4 on the Higher Education and Research Bill should be taken in private at a future meeting.
2. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2017-18 - Scottish Qualifications Authority:** The Committee took evidence from—

Dr Janet Brown, Chief Executive, and Linda Ellison, Director of Finance, Scottish Qualifications Authority.

3. **Review of Evidence (in private):** The Committee discussed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting. The Committee agreed to write to the SQA on issues raised during the session, and to highlight this letter to the Scottish Government.
4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme. The Committee agreed:
 - the session on the Enterprise and Skills' Bodies Review on December 7 with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work will look at the impact on the Scottish Funding Council and Skills Development Scotland;

- to receive an informal briefing from Audit Scotland on their 2014 School Education report and the progress since then to inform the future session with education authority representatives;
- to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to give evidence on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget on 21 December; and
- to defer the consideration of the rest of its work programme, including further discussions in relation to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, to its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.48 pm.

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