



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

4th Meeting, 2016 (Session 5)

Wednesday 14 September 2016

Present:

Colin Beattie	James Dornan (Convener)
Ross Greer	Daniel Johnson
Johann Lamont (Deputy Convener)	Richard Lochhead
Fulton MacGregor	Gillian Martin
Tavish Scott	Liz Smith
Ross Thomson	

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 8 in private.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence on the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Part 4 and Part 5 Complaints) Revocation Order 2016 [draft] from—

John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Scottish Government.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** John Swinney (Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills) moved—

S5M-01327—That the Education and Skills Committee recommends that the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Part 4 and Part 5 Complaints) Revocation Order 2016 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instrument—

Named Persons (Training, Qualifications, Experience and Position) and the Child's Plan (Scotland) Revocation Order 2016 (SSI 2016/234).

The Committee agreed to make no recommendations in relation to the instrument.

5. **Update on Named Persons:** Following on from the Ministerial Statement on 8 September, the Committee took evidence from—

John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Scottish Government.

6. **Overview of Attainment:** The Committee took evidence from—

Paul Clancy, Head of Secondary Education, Dundee City Council;

Lindsay Law, Vice Convener, Scottish Parent Teacher Council;

Graeme Logan, Strategic Director, Education Scotland;

Jamie Petrie, Headteacher, Broomhouse Primary School.

7. **Review of Evidence (in private):** The Committee agreed to highlight the evidence heard relating to child poverty to the Scottish Government as part of its consultation on the Child Poverty Bill. The Committee also agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary seeking: clarification as to when the criteria that the Government will use to measure the attainment gap will be available; and, having set these criteria, an indication as to how long a period would need to elapse before the Committee could usefully start assessing the Government's progress towards closing the attainment gap.

8. **Working Practices (in private):** The Committee agreed its Working Practices.

The meeting closed at 11.59 am.

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