



EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

11th Meeting, 2016 (Session 5)

Wednesday 16 November 2016

Present:

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

Apologies were received from Fulton MacGregor, Ross Thomson.

The meeting opened at 9.17 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private. The Committee also agreed consideration of its Work Programme should be taken in private at its next meeting.
2. **Higher Education and Research Bill (UK Parliament legislation):** The Committee took evidence on legislative consent memorandum LCM(S5) 4 from—

Professor Lesley Yellowlees, Fellow, The Royal Society of Edinburgh;

Mary Senior, UCU Scotland Official, University and College Union Scotland;

Alastair Sim, Director, Universities Scotland;

Philip Whyte, Policy and Influencing Officer, National Union of Students Scotland.

3. **Pre-Budget Scrutiny 2017-18 - Scottish Funding Council:** The Committee took evidence from—

Dr John Kemp, Interim Chief Executive, Dr Stuart Fancey, Director of Research and Innovation, and Lorna MacDonald, Director of Finance, Scottish Funding Council.

The Committee also asked the Scottish Funding Council for its position on legislative consent memorandum LCM (S5) 4 on the Higher Education and Research Bill.

During the session, the Convener noted that Fulton MacGregor and Ross Thomson were attending a fact-finding visit with the Scottish Qualifications Authority on behalf of the Committee as part of its pre-budget scrutiny.

4. **Review of Evidence (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence and agreed to write to the House of Lords and the Home Office highlighting concerns raised. It also agreed to consider a report on the LCM at a future meeting.
5. **Review of Evidence (in private):** The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Funding Council and the Auditor General for Scotland on issues raised in evidence. It also agreed to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work to give evidence to the Committee on the Enterprise and Skills Review.

The meeting closed at 11.47 am.

Roz Thomson
Clerk to the Education and Skills Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 85222
Email: Roz.Thomson@parliament.scot