



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

18th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Thursday 29 June 2017

Present:

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Deputy Convener)	Mary Fee
Jamie Greene	Christina McKelvie (Convener)
Gail Ross	David Torrance
Annie Wells	

The meeting opened at 9.39 am.

1. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered issues for its work programme as well as its approach to its Business Planning Day on 4 September 2017.

In relation to its work programme, the Committee considered three pieces of correspondence, all of which have been published on the Committee's website.

The [first letter](#) was from John McCormick, Chair of the Commission on Parliamentary Reform, on the recommendations in the Commission's report relevant to the remit of the Committee. Following consideration of the letter the Committee agreed to write back to Mr McCormick, thanking him for the Commission's work, and outlining its decision to take on board the recommendations of the Commission as part of its ongoing inquiry on the scrutiny of human rights by the Scottish Parliament.

The [second letter](#) was from Patrick Harvie MSP requesting the Committee consider the question of prisoners voting in Scotland, as part of its work programme. Following consideration of the letter the Committee agreed to undertake a one-off oral evidence scoping session at its meeting on 7 September 2017, on the issues raised by Mr Harvie, in relation to prisoner voting. Following this the Committee will consider what further action, if any, may be required on this issue.

The [final letter](#) was from Mrs Doris Duff, on issues relating to disabled people and Scottish Government transport policy. Following consideration of the letter

the Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Transport and Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP, bringing Mrs Duff's letter to his attention and seeking a response to the issues she has raised.

Finally, the Committee agreed its approach to its Business Planning Day and also agree to delegate the final decisions on the arrangements and programme for the event to the Convener and the Clerk.

2. **Bullying and harassment of children and young people in schools (in private):** The Committee considered a draft report. Following specific amendments, the report was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 11.00 am.

Claire Menzies
Clerk to the Equalities and Human Rights Committee
Room T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5217
Email: claire.menzies@parliament.scot