



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

17th Meeting, 2012 (Session 4)

Tuesday 29 May 2012

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 6.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 4 in private.
2. **Broadcasting:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Ken MacQuarrie, Director, and Bruce Malcolm, Chief Operating Officer, BBC Scotland;

Mark Thompson, Director-General, BBC.
3. **Educational attainment of looked after children (in private):** The Committee will continue its consideration of a draft report.
4. **Work programme:** The Committee will review its work programme.

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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda Item 2

Note from the Clerk

EC/S4/12/17/1

Agenda Item 3

PRIVATE PAPER

EC/S4/12/17/2 (P)

Agenda Item 4

PRIVATE PAPER

EC/S4/12/17/3 (P)

17th Meeting, 2012 (Session 4), Tuesday, 29 May 2012

Broadcasting

Note by the Clerk

Background

1. Following its roundtable evidence session on broadcasting on 24 January 2012¹, the Committee agreed to take further oral evidence from the BBC on issues such as previous and future funding of BBC Scotland, provision and funding of news and current affairs in Scotland vis-à-vis London and the rest of the United Kingdom, and issues around job cuts that were raised by the National Union of Journalists at the roundtable evidence session.
2. At the Committee's meeting on 29 May, the BBC will be represented by—
 - Mark Thompson, Director-General, BBC;
 - Ken McQuarrie, Director, BBC Scotland; and
 - Bruce Malcolm, Chief Operating Officer, BBC Scotland.

Main issues for discussion

3. The clerks have advised the BBC that the Committee may wish to raise the following issues, all of which were previously raised at the roundtable evidence session—
 - The question of whether BBC Scotland has done enough to “fight its corner” in discussions at a UK level;
 - The perceived historic underfunding of BBC Scotland;
 - Funding for the Today programme vis-à-vis Good Morning Scotland;
 - Funding for Radio Scotland compared with funding for Radio Wales;
 - Whether BBC Scotland's budget cuts will affect the quality of news and current affairs coverage;
 - News and current affairs coverage in the run up to the referendum;
 - Benchmarking between news and current affairs in Scotland and London and the rest of the UK;
 - Issues around the possibility of the provision of a “Scottish Six”;
 - What the impact of cuts will be on the BBC Scotland workforce (e.g. - in respect of health and safety, stress levels and mental health);
 - Staff training and multi-skilling;
 - Investment in new technology;
 - Editorial control and moderation of online comments on blogs.

Other developments

4. Although the BBC has not submitted written evidence in advance of this session, Members may wish to be aware that the BBC Trust recently published [Delivering](#)

¹ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6909&mode=pdf>

[Quality First final conclusions](#) and BBC Scotland published [Delivering Quality First in Scotland](#).

5. Members will also be aware that, since the Committee's roundtable evidence session, the Scotland Act 2012 has now received royal assent. Section 16 of the Act amends the 1998 Scotland Act, requiring UK Ministers to obtain the agreement of Scottish Ministers before making a recommendation for the appointment to the BBC Trust of the trust member for Scotland.

Neil Stewart
Assistant Clerk
May 2012