



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

24th Meeting, 2012 (Session 4)

Tuesday 25 September 2012

Present:

George Adam	Clare Adamson
Marco Biagi (Committee Substitute)	Neil Bibby
Neil Findlay (Deputy Convener)	Stewart Maxwell (Convener)
Joan McAlpine	Liam McArthur
Mary Scanlon (Committee Substitute)	

Apologies were received from Colin Beattie and Liz Smith.

The meeting opened at 10.02 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** George Adam and Mary Scanlon were invited to declare any relevant interests. Both members referred to those recorded in the register of Members' interests.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 7 in private.
3. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2013-14:** The Committee took evidence on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2013-14 from—

Paul Buchanan, former Chair of Board of Management, Reid Kerr College;

Professor Jim Gallacher, Emeritus Professor of Lifelong Learning, Glasgow Caledonian University;

Professor Jeremy Peat, Director, The David Hume Institute;

David Belsey, National Officer, Further and Higher Education, the Educational Institute of Scotland;

Robin Parker, President, NUS Scotland;

Emma Phillips, Regional Organiser, UNISON;

Mary Senior, Scottish Official, University and College Union Scotland.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence on the Population (Statistics) Act 1938 Modifications (Scotland) Order 2012 [draft] from—

Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development;

Judith Brown, Solicitor, Scottish Government Legal Directorate;

Kirsty MacLachlan, Head of Demography, National Records of Scotland.

5. **Subordinate legislation:** Humza Yousaf moved—S4M-04089—That the Education and Culture Committee recommends that the Population (Statistics) Act 1938 Modifications (Scotland) Order 2012 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

6. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instruments—

The Elmwood College, Oatridge College and The Barony College (Transfer and Closure) (Scotland) Order 2012 (SSI 2012/237);

The Jewel and Esk College and Stevenson College Edinburgh (Transfer and Closure) (Scotland) Order 2012 (SSI 2012/238).

The Committee agreed to request further information from the Scottish Government on SSI 2012/237 and to consider the instrument again at a future meeting, and agreed to make no recommendations on SSI 2012/238.

7. **Inquiry into decision making on whether to take children into care (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the inquiry and agreed to request further information from the Scottish Government and other bodies and to undertake a series of informal visits.

The meeting closed at 1.19 pm.

Terry Shevlin
Clerk to the Education and Culture Committee
Room T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5204
Email: terry.shevlin@scottish.parliament.uk