Education and Culture Committee

2nd Report, 2011 (Session 4)

Subordinate Legislation
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Education and Culture Committee

Remit and membership

Remit:

The remit of the Committee is to consider and report on further and higher education, lifelong learning, schools, pre-school care, skills and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and matters relating to culture and the arts falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs.

Membership:

Clare Adamson
Claire Baker (Deputy Convener)
Marco Biagi
Jenny Marra
Stewart Maxwell (Convener)
Joan McAlpine
Liam McArthur
Liz Smith
Jean Urquhart

Committee Clerking Team:

Senior Assistant Clerk
Terry Shevlin

Assistant Clerk
Neil Stewart

Committee Assistant
Jonas Rae
The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows—

1. At its meeting on 29 November 2011, the Education and Culture Committee considered the following instrument—

   The Student Fees (Specification) (Scotland) Order 2011 [draft].

2. The instrument was laid on 4 November 2011 and is subject to affirmative procedure. Its purpose is to specify the fees that are payable by certain students attending courses of higher education at fundable bodies in the 2012/13 academic year.

3. At the same meeting, the Committee also considered the Education (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/389), which provide that it is lawful for a fundable body to charge certain students fees at a higher level than other students. The Order and the Regulations are complementary in terms of the policy changes they are seeking to deliver i.e. to change the way in which higher education tuition fees are applied to students who normally live in another part of the UK outside Scotland.

4. The Committee took oral evidence on the Order and the Regulations from NUS Scotland and Education Scotland, and then from Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

5. The Cabinet Secretary moved motion S4M-01315—

   That the Education and Culture Committee recommends that the Student Fees (Specification) (Scotland) Order 2011 [draft] be approved.

6. The motion was agreed to (by division: For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 1).

7. The Committee agreed to highlight to the Parliament the Official Report of the meeting, in order to inform its consideration of the Order.
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