EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

13th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5)

Thursday 16 May 2019

Present:

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Deputy Convener)  Rhoda Grant (Committee Substitute)
Fulton MacGregor                  Ruth Maguire (Convener)
Oliver Mundell                    Gail Ross
Annie Wells

Apologies were received from Mary Fee.

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 3 in private.

2. **Evidence from Scottish Human Rights Commission and Equality and Human Rights Commission:** The Committee took evidence from the Scottish Human Rights Commission and Equality and Human Rights Commission on their work priorities for the coming year from—

   Judith Robertson, Chair, and Kavita Chetty, Head of Strategy and Legal, Scottish Human Rights Commission;

   Alastair Pringle, Executive Director, Lynn Welsh, Head of Legal for Scotland, and John Wilkes, Head of Scotland, Equality and Human Rights Commission.

3. **Evidence from Scottish Human Rights Commission and Equality and Human Rights Commission:** The Committee considered the evidence heard.

4. **Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill (in private):**
   The Committee discussed and disagreed by division to seek to extend the Stage 1 deadline to allow further evidence to be taken: For 2 (Oliver Mundell, Annie Wells), Against 5 (Alex Cole-Hamilton, Rhoda Grant, Fulton MacGregor, Ruth Maguire, Gail Ross), Abstentions 0.
The Committee agreed by division to invite the Lord Advocate to give oral evidence before Stage 2 consideration of amendments: For 5 (Alex Cole-Hamilton, Rhoda Grant, Fulton MacGregor, Ruth Maguire, Gail Ross), Against 0, Abstentions 2 (Oliver Mundell, Annie Wells).

Discussion on the report’s content continued until 11:54. The meeting was suspended until 13:30.

The Committee continued consideration of its draft Stage 1 report. Various changes were agreed to, and the report was agreed for publication.

The meeting closed at 1.44 pm.

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