



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

19th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5)

Wednesday 26 June 2019

Present:

James Dornan (Convener)
Kenneth Gibson
Graham Simpson
Andy Wightman

Annabelle Ewing
Alex Rowley (Deputy Convener)
Alexander Stewart

The meeting opened at 9.45 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Rachel Blair, Public Affairs and Communications Officer (Scotland),
Charity Retail Association;

Stuart Mackinnon, External Affairs Manager - Scotland, Federation of
Small Businesses;

David Lonsdale, Director, Scottish Retail Consortium;

Marc Crothall, Chief Executive, Scottish Tourism Alliance;

and then from—

Ken Barclay, Former Chair, Barclay Review of Business Rates.

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

The Private Landlord Registration (Information) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 (SSI 2019/195);

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2019 (SSI 2019/204).

The Committee agreed to make no recommendation in relation to the instruments.

4. **Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered and noted the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
5. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed:
 - to undertake a visit to Stirling in relation to its scrutiny of the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Bill and to hold a business planning meeting there;
 - to issue a call for views, with a focus on long-term sustainability of local authority finances, as part of its 2020-21 pre-budget scrutiny;
 - to hold a one-off evidence session on alcohol licensing, communities and public health;
 - to write to the Scottish Government on high hedges;
 - to continue to seek a joint evidence session with the UK Government and the Scottish Government on city region deals.

The meeting closed at 12.17 pm.

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