

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Monday 18 December 2000
(*Afternoon*)

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EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE 42nd Meeting 2000, Session 1

CONVENER

*Mrs Mary Mulligan (Linlithgow) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray) (SNP)
Cathy Jamieson (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley) (Lab)
*Ian Jenkins (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale) (LD)
Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab)
*Irene McGugan (North-East Scotland) (SNP)
Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab)
Mr Brian Monteith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)
Michael Russell (South of Scotland) (SNP)
Mr Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) (LD)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Martin Verity

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

David McLaren

ASSISTANT CLERK

Ian Cowan

LOCATION

Committee Room 2

Scottish Parliament

Education, Culture and Sport Committee

Monday 18 December 2000

(Afternoon)

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 14:04*]

The Convener (Mrs Mary Mulligan): Good afternoon everybody. Let us make a start. I begin this afternoon's meeting by welcoming Margaret Ewing to the committee. Margaret, yours could be the shortest membership ever, unless you are putting in a bid for Mike Russell's place.

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray) (SNP): No, he is too big for me.

Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab): Do not let that put you off.

The Convener: Margaret, do you have any interests to declare?

Mrs Ewing: I cannot think of any. I was a teacher, with a special certificate in what then was called remedial education, but I am not involved with any unions or anything like that.

Ian Jenkins (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale) (LD): You must be a lot older than you look if you have a certificate in remedial education.

The Convener: The first item on the agenda is to decide whether to hold the discussion on the forward work programme in private. Given that most committees do that and that it will allow the official reporters to take leave of us to do more important things, I suggest that we hold that part of the meeting in private. Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

Europe Familiarisation Scheme

The Convener: The next item is the Europe familiarisation scheme. Does the committee wish to nominate a member to take part in the familiarisation programme funded by the European Parliament? I suggest that we nominate someone.

Ian Jenkins: I nominate Cathy Peattie. *[Interruption.]*

The Convener: Could you do so without demolishing the microphone?

Irene McGugan (North-East Scotland) (SNP): I note in the guidance to the committee—and also because I have been through this process with another committee—that normally it is the convener who has first refusal.

The Convener: Given that I will no longer be the convener and that it is unclear whether our new convener will be in place, Ian Jenkins's idea of nominating Cathy Peattie, as deputy convener, is a good one. Is it agreed that we nominate Cathy Peattie?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: We will now go into private session to go through our forward work programme and our special educational needs report.

14:07

Meeting continued in private until 15:19.

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