

# **ENTERPRISE AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE**

Wednesday 5 September 2001  
*(Morning)*

Session 1

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## ENTERPRISE AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2001, Session 1

### CONVENER

\*Alex Neil (Central Scotland) (SNP)

### DEPUTY CONVENER

\*Miss Annabel Goldie (West of Scotland) (Con)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

\*Bill Butler (Glasgow Anniesland) (Lab)  
\*Mr Duncan Hamilton (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)  
\*Marilyn Livingstone (Kirkcaldy) (Lab)  
Mr Kenny MacAskill (Lothians) (SNP)  
\*Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab)  
Des McNulty (Clydebank and Milngavie) (Lab)  
\*David Mundell (South of Scotland) (Con):  
\*Tavish Scott (Shetland) (LD)  
\*Elaine Thomson (Aberdeen North) (Lab)

\*attended

### WITNESS

David Seers (Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department)

### CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Simon Watkins

### SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Judith Evans

### ASSISTANT CLERK

Linda Orton

### LOCATION

Committee Room 3



## Scottish Parliament

### Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee

*Wednesday 5 September 2001*

*(Morning)*

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:04*]

### Subordinate Legislation

**The Convener (Alex Neil):** Good morning and welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2001 of the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee. The first item on the agenda will be discussed in public, after which we will move into private session.

The first item deals with two statutory instruments. The first is the Education (Student Loans) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (SSI 2001/210). We are joined by Jim Logie from the office of the solicitor to the Executive, who is well known to the committee, and by Chris Graham, who is temporary head of the higher education student support policy branch of the Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department. Do members have any questions on or objections to the instrument? Is it agreed to?

**Members indicated agreement.**

**The Convener:** The next instrument is the Right to Time Off for Study or Training (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2001 (SSI 2001/211). Along with Jim Logie, we have David Seers and Rosemary Whelan who are respectively team leader and policy executive of the Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department's training for young people branch. Are there any questions?

**Marilyn Livingstone (Kirkcaldy) (Lab):** I would like some clarification. My concern about the statutory instrument on right to time off for study is that it seems to concentrate exclusively on Scottish vocational qualifications. Does it allow youngsters between the ages of 16 and 18—skillseekers, in other words—the right to time off for study for higher national certificates and higher national diplomas, for example?

**David Seers (Scottish Executive Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Department):** I can confirm that that is the case. The question might have arisen because the amending regulations make reference only to SVQs. However, the principal regulations that were made in 1999, which the present regulations amend, also include

national qualifications.

**Marilyn Livingstone:** Can you confirm that the principal regulations say that young people can study towards any relevant qualification that is awarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority? That is an important point on which the committee needs strong assurances.

**David Seers:** Under the right, anybody who has not achieved a standard grade at grades 1 to 3 awarded by the SQA has the right to study towards those qualifications.

**Marilyn Livingstone:** Are national certificates and higher national certificates included?

**David Seers:** Yes.

**The Convener:** Do members of the committee have any other questions? Is the statutory instrument agreed to?

**Members indicated agreement.**

10:07

*Meeting continued in private until 12:54.*



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