

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

9th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Tuesday 22 March 2022

Virtual Session

Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland

Note by the clerk

Introduction

1. Predecessor committees have taken a longstanding interest in the lives of Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland, with a number of inquiries being conducted in previous parliamentary sessions.
2. In March 2021, in its [legacy report](#) (paragraphs 78 to 82), the Session 5 Equalities and Human Rights Committee summarised the work it had undertaken and noted the establishment of a Ministerial Working Group to determine priorities for action to make positive changes to the lives of Gypsy/Travellers.
3. The [joint action plan](#) by the Scottish Government and COSLA was published in 2019.
4. The Session 5 committee noted there was “still more progress to be made” and recommended its successor committee monitors progress on implementation of the joint action plan.
5. This evidence session will therefore focus principally on progress of the implementation of the joint action plan and the five key themes within it—
 - accommodation
 - access to public services
 - better incomes
 - tackling racism and discrimination
 - improving Gypsy/Traveller representation.
6. There will also be an opportunity to discuss any impacts of the pandemic and the restrictions brought about by it, as well as impacts on Gypsy/Traveller communities more broadly as they pertain to recent news events.

Participants

7. The following people will be taking part in the virtual session—

- Suzanne Munday, MECOPP Gypsy/Traveller Programme Manager
- Dr Lynne Tammi, AyeRight
- Dr Maureen Finn, STEP (Scottish Traveller Education Programme)
- Leslie Drury, National Co-ordinator, Article 12 in Scotland.

Clerks to the Committee
17 March 2022