



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Official Report

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

Tuesday 2 December 2014

Session 4

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

Information on the Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website - www.scottish.parliament.uk or by contacting Public Information on 0131 348 5000

Tuesday 2 December 2014

CONTENTS

	Col.
INTERESTS	1
DEPUTY CONVENER	2
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE	3
SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION	4
Discretionary Housing Payments (Limit on Total Expenditure) Revocation (Scotland) Order 2014 (SS1 2014/298)	4

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE
19th Meeting 2014, Session 4

CONVENER

*Michael McMahon (Uddingston and Bellshill) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Alex Johnstone (North East Scotland) (Con)

*Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab)

*Joan McAlpine (South Scotland) (SNP)

*Christina McKelvie (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (SNP)

*Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Simon Watkins

LOCATION

The Adam Smith Room (CR5)

Scottish Parliament

Welfare Reform Committee

Tuesday 2 December 2014

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:00]

Interests

The Convener (Michael McMahon): Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Welfare Reform Committee's 19th meeting in 2014. I ask everyone to ensure that mobile phones and electronic devices are switched to silent or airplane mode.

We start today with a new set of committee members. We have received resignations from the deputy convener, Jamie Hepburn, and from Annabelle Ewing and Linda Fabiani. I thank those members for the service that they gave the committee. I worked very closely with Jamie and we had a very positive relationship. The committee worked very well because of the co-operation that we always achieved, so I hope that we will go forward in that way with our new members, who are Clare Adamson, Christina McKelvie and Joan McAlpine. I am sure that we will.

The first agenda item is declarations of interests. I invite our new members to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee's remit, and I remind them that declarations should be brief, but sufficiently detailed to make clear to us the nature of the interest.

Christina McKelvie (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (SNP): I have no registrable interests in relation to this committee. I refer members to my entry in the register of members' interests for other information.

Joan McAlpine (South Scotland) (SNP): I draw members' attention to my entry in the register of members' interests, in particular to the fact that I write a column for the *Daily Record*, which is a newspaper that has been known to comment and campaign on welfare issues.

Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (SNP): I draw members' attention to my entry in the register of interests, but I have nothing to declare for this committee.

The Convener: Thank you all very much, and welcome aboard.

Deputy Convener

10:02

The Convener: Agenda item 2 is the choice of deputy convener. In line with standing orders, the Parliament has agreed that members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for the position. Would any member like to make a nomination?

Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (SNP): I nominate Clare Adamson.

Clare Adamson was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Welcome to your new post, Clare. I look forward to working with you.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:02

The Convener: Agenda item 3 is to decide whether to take in private item 7, which is consideration of the committee's work programme. Do members agree to take the item in private?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Subordinate Legislation

Discretionary Housing Payments (Limit on Total Expenditure) Revocation (Scotland) Order 2014 (SSI 2014/298)

10:03

The Convener: The fourth item of business is consideration of Scottish statutory instrument 2014/298, which will revoke any enactments that impose a limit on local authorities' discretionary housing payment expenditure, and will apply retrospectively from 1 April this year.

Members will recall that we took evidence on the order from the then Deputy First Minister on 11 November. At that stage we did not formally consider the order, as we had yet to receive the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee's report. We have now received that report and that committee has determined that it does not need to draw the instrument to Parliament's attention.

Members should note that no motion to annul the instrument has been received.

Does the committee agree not to make any recommendation on the order?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: At its next meeting on 9 December, the committee will conduct a your say oral evidence session and will hear from a variety of welfare benefit recipients on the impact of welfare reforms on people who have mental health problems.

I now close the public meeting and we move into private session to consider the committee's work programme and draft reports on the draft budget and the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Bill.

10:04

Meeting continued in private until 10:43.

Members who would like a printed copy of the *Official Report* to be forwarded to them should give notice to SPICe.

Available in e-format only. Printed Scottish Parliament documentation is published in Edinburgh by APS Group Scotland.

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.scottish.parliament.uk

For details of documents available to
order in hard copy format, please contact:
APS Scottish Parliament Publications on 0131 629 9941.

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000
Textphone: 0800 092 7100
Email: sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

e-format first available
ISBN 978-1-78534-451-0

Revised e-format available
ISBN 978-1-78534-467-1