



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Official Report

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

Tuesday 24 February 2015

Session 4

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WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

4th Meeting 2015, Session 4

CONVENER

*Michael McMahon (Uddingston and Bellshill) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Annabel Goldie (West Scotland) (Con)

*Joan McAlpine (South Scotland) (SNP)

*Margaret McDougall (West Scotland) (Lab)

*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 24 February 2015

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:00]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener (Michael McMahon): Good morning, and welcome to the fourth meeting in 2015 of the Welfare Reform Committee. Could everyone please make sure that their mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched to silent or to airplane mode? We will try to get finished before the phones ring.

Item 1 is a decision on whether to take in private item 3, which is consideration of the committee's work programme? Is that agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

European Union Reporter

10:01

The Convener: Item 2 is the nomination and agreement of a new European Union reporter for the committee. Due to the reshuffle and the addition of new members, we need to appoint a new person to take on that role. The committee's EU reporter acts as a champion for EU matters. That will involve promoting the EU dimension of issues in committee meetings and policy debates; leading on EU engagement and the development of relations with EU actions; leading the committee's EU scrutiny work; and acting as a conduit between this committee and the European and External Relations Committee. I invite nominations for the position.

Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (SNP): I nominate Christina McKelvie.

Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (SNP): I second that.

The Convener: There are no other nominations. Christina—are you happy to accept that position?

Christina McKelvie (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (SNP): I cannot possibly imagine why you would suggest me, but I am happy to do it.

The Convener: In that case, thank you for agreeing to take on the role. It makes sense as Christina is the convener of the European and External Relations Committee. The phrase "killing two birds with one stone" comes to mind.

Before we move into private session to consider the committee's work programme, I point out that at our next meeting on 10 March we expect to hear a presentation from Sheffield Hallam University on its latest welfare reform research. We will also be looking at subordinate legislation on council tax reduction. In addition, we will take a second look at our work programme.

10:02

Meeting continued in private until 10:37.

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