



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

16th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)

Thursday 23 May 2013

Present:

Christian Allard	Marco Biagi (Deputy Convener)
Mary Fee (Convener)	John Finnie
Alex Johnstone	John Mason

Apologies were received from Siobhan McMahon.

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

- Declaration of interests:** The Convener welcomed Christian Allard to the Committee and invited him to declare any relevant interests. Mr Allard declared an interest as a member of Reach, the Association for Children with Upper Limb Deficiency.
- Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5, on forthcoming legislation on marriage and civil partnership, in private.
- Women and work:** The Committee took evidence from—  

Angela Constance, Minister for Youth Employment, and Julie Ann Bilotti, Employability Policy, Scottish Government;

Susan Bolt, Team Leader, Early Years, and Eileen Flanagan, Policy Manager, Equality Unit, Scottish Government.
- Women and work (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its approach to a draft report.
- Forthcoming legislation on marriage and civil partnership (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of a forthcoming bill on marriage and civil partnership and agreed that, at its meeting on 20 June, it would, in private, (a) take a briefing from the Parliament's solicitor and (b)

consider its approach to taking evidence on the bill.

The meeting closed at 11.33 am.

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