



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

15th Meeting, 2011 (Session 4)

Wednesday 21 December 2011

Present:

Joe FitzPatrick (Convener)
Margaret Mitchell

Mark Griffin
Dr Richard Simpson (Committee
Substitute)

Kevin Stewart (Deputy Convener)
Bill Walker

David Torrance

Apologies were received from Kezia Dugdale.

The meeting opened at 10.01 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee decided to take items 5, 6 and 7 in private.
2. **Inquiry on a living wage in Scotland:** The Committee took evidence from—

Iain Moore, Head of Procurement Policy Branch, Scottish Government;

Dorothy Cowie, Director, Scotland Excel;

Patrick McGuire, Thompson Solicitors;

John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth, Iain Moore, Head of Procurement Policy Branch, and Calum Webster, Policy Officer, Employability and Tackling Poverty Policy, Scottish Government.
3. **Inquiry on a living wage in Scotland (in private):** The Committee considered the evidence received on a living wage in Scotland.
4. **Public services reform and local government: strand 1 – partnerships and outcomes:** The Committee considered a list of candidates and agreed its

ranking of preferred candidates for appointment to the post of adviser in connection with strand 1 of its forthcoming inquiry.

5. **Public services reform and local government: strand 1 – partnerships and outcomes (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the inquiry.
6. **Petition PE1405 (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to a Petition by Andrew Muir, calling on the Scottish Parliament to request the Scottish Government to carry out urgently an independent “fit for purpose” review of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman which encompasses opening a public inquiry to collect evidence to scrutinize the high rate of case closures since Mr Jim Martin took office in May 2009. The Committee agreed to invite the petitioner and the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman to give evidence.
7. **Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to issues arising from its scrutiny of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's 2010-2011 annual report, and agreed to invite the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman to give evidence.

The meeting closed at 12.06 pm.

Eugene Windsor
Clerk to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5217
Email: eugene.windsor@scottish.parliament.uk