



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

31st Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Wednesday 6 December 2017

Present:

George Adam	James Dornan (Convener)
Ross Greer	Daniel Johnson
Johann Lamont (Deputy Convener)	Richard Lochhead
Ruth Maguire	Gillian Martin
Oliver Mundell	Tavish Scott
Liz Smith	

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Education reforms:** The Committee heard evidence from:

Frank Lennon, Representative of the Commission on School Reform;

Danielle Mason, Head of Research, Education Endowment Foundation;

Dr Rebekah Widdowfield, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Society of Edinburgh.

2. **Review of Evidence (in private):** The Committee considered the evidence it heard earlier.

3. **Children and Young People (Information Sharing) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered a letter dated 30th November 2017 from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills and the Committee's approach to its Stage 1 report.

George Adam proposed that the Committee should produce a Stage 1 report at this stage of the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill. The proposal was disagreed to by division: For 5 (George Adam, James Dornan, Richard Lochhead, Ruth Maguire, Gillian Martin); Against 6 (Ross Greer, Daniel Johnson, Johann Lamont, Oliver Mundell, Tavish Scott, Liz Smith); Abstentions 0.

Oliver Mundell proposed that the Committee should extend the period of Stage 1 scrutiny to provide the Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise a draft Code of Practice alongside the Bill. The proposal was agreed to: For 6 (Ross Greer, Daniel Johnson, Johann Lamont, Oliver Mundell, Tavish Scott, Liz Smith); Against 5 (George Adam, James Dornan, Richard Lochhead, Ruth Maguire, Gillian Martin); Abstentions 0.

The Committee therefore agreed to seek an extension from the Parliamentary Bureau at Stage 1. The Committee agreed to write to the Presiding Officer in his capacity as Chair of the Bureau and to provide its letter to the Cabinet Secretary dated 29th November as context for its request. The Committee also agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary highlighting that the reason for the decision to extend Stage 1 is to ensure that the Committee can undertake informed scrutiny of the legislation.

The meeting closed at 12.18 pm.

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