



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EDUCATION AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

26th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Wednesday 11 November 2020

Present:

George Adam
Kenneth Gibson

Jamie Greene
Jamie Halcro Johnston
Rona Mackay

Clare Adamson (Convener)

Iain Gray

Ross Greer

Daniel Johnson (Deputy Convener)

Beatrice Wishart

Apologies were received from Alex Neil.

The meeting opened at 9.10 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 5 and 6 in private.
2. **Public petitions:** The Committee considered the following petitions—
 - PE1548: National Guidance on Restraint and Seclusion in Schools
 - PE01668: Improving literacy standards in schools through research-informed reading instruction
 - PE01692: Inquiry into the human rights impact of GIRFEC policy and data processing
 - PE1747: Adequate funding to support children with additional support needs in all Scottish Schools

The Committee agreed the following actions.

- PE1548: The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills for an update.
- PE01668: The Committee agreed to keep the petition open pending a future work programme discussion.
- PE01692: The Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills for an update.

- PE1747: The Committee agreed to keep the petition open given upcoming work on additional support needs and pending a future work programme discussion
3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instrument and made no comment—

The Glasgow School of Art Order of Council 2020: (SSI 2020/303)
 4. **Exam diet 2020 and 2021:** The Committee heard evidence from—

Professor Mark Priestley, Professor of Education, and Dr Marina Shapira, Senior Lecturer, University of Stirling;

And then from,

John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Scottish Government.
 5. **Review of evidence:** The Committee considered the evidence it heard earlier in agenda item 4 and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.
 6. **Work programme:** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed its call for views for the Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill as well as engagement work ahead of its evidence session on early years and childcare on 9 December.

The meeting closed at 12.47 pm.

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