



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

29th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Present:

James Dornan (Convener)
Keith Brown
Gail Ross
Annie Wells

Sarah Boyack (Deputy Convener)
Andy Wightman
Alexander Stewart

The meeting opened at 9.31 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 6 and 7 in private.
2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence on the Valuation (Postponement of Revaluation) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] from—

Ben Macpherson, Minister for Public Finance and Migration, Ian Storrie, Head of Non-Domestic Rates Policy, and Anouk Berthier, Non-Domestic Rates Team Leader, Scottish Government.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Minister for Public Finance & Migration moved—S5M-23058—That the Local Government and Communities Committee recommends that the Valuation (Postponement of Revaluation) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] be approved.

After debate, the motion was agreed to (by division: For 4, Against 3, Abstentions 0).

4. **European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence from—

Professor Chris Himsworth, Emeritus Professor of Administrative Law, The University of Edinburgh;

Professor Richard Kerley, Professor of Management, Queen Margaret University;

Alison Payne, Research Director, Reform Scotland;

Councillor Malcolm Bell, Convener, Shetland Islands Council;

Councillor Alison Evison, President, COSLA;

Andrew Fraser, Former President of SOLAR, North Ayrshire Council, representing Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators (SOLAR).

5. **Public petitions:** The Committee considered the following petitions—

PE1743: Amend the law to protect the rights of pre-1989 Scottish Secure Tenant

PE1778: Review the Scottish Landlords Register scheme

In relation to petition PE1743, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government expressing agreement with the aims of the petition.

In relation to petition PE1778, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Scottish Landlords Association to seek views on issues raised in the petition.

Sarah Boyack declared that she was previously employed as Head of Public Affairs for the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.

6. **European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee considered the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

In accordance with rule 9.13A of Standing Orders, Andy Wightman (Member in Charge of the Bill) was not in attendance for this agenda item.

7. **Common Frameworks:**

The Committee agreed its approach to scrutiny of the Common Framework on Hazardous Substances Planning. It agreed to write to industry stakeholders to seek views on the Framework and to invite the Scottish Government Minister to give evidence on it at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.42 pm.

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