



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Thursday 13 March 2014

Present:

Christian Allard  
John Finnie  
John Mason  
Siobhan McMahon

Marco Biagi (Deputy Convener)  
Alex Johnstone  
Margaret McCulloch (Convener)

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee decided to take item 3, on follow-up work to its Having and Keeping a Home inquiry, in private at this and future meetings.

2. **Fathers and parenting:** The Committee took evidence from—

Michelle Campbell, Volunteer Development Co-ordinator, Fife Gingerbread;

David Drysdale, National Development Manager, Fathers Network Scotland;

Robert Hall, Chairman, Familyman Playgroup;

Ewan Jeffrey, Chair, Gay Dads Scotland;

Thomas Lynch, Chairman, Dads Rock;

Neil McIntosh, Senior Children and Fathers Worker, One Parent Families Scotland;

Clare Simpson, Project Manager, Parenting across Scotland;

Kenny Spence, Manager, Edinburgh Lone Fathers Project.

3. **Having and Keeping a Home: steps to preventing homelessness among young people (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to follow-up work. It agreed to issue a call for written evidence, and to seek oral evidence later in the year.

The meeting closed at 11.23 am.

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