



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

7th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Thursday 27 March 2014

Present:

Christian Allard	Marco Biagi (Deputy Convener)
Alex Johnstone	John Mason
Margaret McCulloch (Convener)	Siobhan McMahon

Apologies were received from John Finnie.

The meeting opened at 8.51 am.

1. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to its work programme and agreed to write to the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland requesting regular updates in advance of seeking further evidence in late 2014; to write to Glasgow 2014's organising body regarding accessibility planning for the Commonwealth Games, and to seek to carry out visits to Glasgow 2014 sites accompanied by the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee decided that consideration of a draft report on Fathers and parenting should be taken in private at this and future meetings. It also decided to take consideration of its approach to the Draft Budget Scrutiny 2015-16 in private at future meetings.
3. **Fathers and parenting:** The Committee took evidence from—

Dr Gary Clapton, Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh;

Karen Love, Team Manager - Sure Start, West Lothian Council;

Inez Murray, NDNA Scotland Policy Committee member and Nursery owner, National Day Nurseries Association;

Fiona Robertson, Senior Community Learning and Home School

Partnership Worker, South Lanarkshire Council;

Donny Scott, Service Manager, Family and Community Support, City of Edinburgh Council;

Aileen Campbell, Minister for Children and Young People, Erica Clarkson, Team Leader – Policy Delivery Unit (Parenting, Play, Family Support and Flexible Working), and Simon Stockwell, Policy Delivery – Family and Property Law, Scottish Government.

4. **Fathers and parenting (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed its approach to a draft report.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.

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