



## WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

12th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)

Tuesday 10 September 2013

Present:

Annabelle Ewing  
Jamie Hepburn (Deputy Convener)  
Ken Macintosh  
Kevin Stewart

Linda Fabiani  
Alex Johnstone  
Michael McMahon (Convener)

The meeting opened at 10.01 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Ken Macintosh was invited to declare any relevant interests and declared none.
2. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 7 & 8 in private. The Committee agreed its consideration of evidence received on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2014-15 should be taken in private at future meetings. The Committee agreed its consideration of a draft report on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2014-15 should be taken in private at future meetings.
3. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2014-15:** The Committee agreed to delegate to the Convener responsibility for arranging for the SPCB to pay, under Rule 12.4.3, any expenses of witnesses on the scrutiny of the Draft Budget.
4. **Your Say - 'Bedroom Tax':** The Committee took evidence from—  
  
Anne Bradley;  
  
Lyndsay Ferry;  
  
Scott Wilson.
5. **Subordinate legislation: Council Tax Regulations** The Committee took evidence from—

Colin Brown, Senior Principal Legal Officer, Directorate for Legal Services,  
and Jenny Brough, Team Leader, Council Tax Unit, Scottish Government.

The Committee considered and noted the Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2013 (SSI 2013/218) and Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Amendment (No. 3) Regulations 2013 (SSI 2013/239).

The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government for further clarification about the Council Tax Reduction Scheme appeals process.

6. **Fact-finding visit:** Linda Fabiani reported back to the Committee on a fact-finding visit to the Dumfries and Galloway Council welfare reform pilot project.
7. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2014-15:** The Committee considered and agreed its approach to the scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2014-15.

The agreed to hold two evidence sessions, one each on the Scottish Welfare Fund and on Council Tax Reduction and on the witnesses.

8. **Work programme:** The Committee considered its work programme.

The Committee agreed to write to the UK Government regarding the timescales for the introduction of Universal Credit.

The Committee agreed that a delegation should visit Inverness as the pilot area for the roll out of Universal Credit in Scotland.

The Committee agreed to write to the UK Government and the Scottish Government for their comments on an open letter received by the Committee from charities regarding the human rights impacts on disabled people of welfare reform.

The Committee agreed to take evidence from Petitioner PE01468, Mike Dailly on behalf of Govan Law Centre Trust and from social housing landlords.

The Committee agreed to invite the Deputy First Minister to give evidence on the Scottish Governments annual report on the impact of the UK's Government's Welfare Reform Act on the people of Scotland and on a Scottish Government report on Gender Impact of Welfare Reform.

The meeting closed at 12.31 pm.

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