



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Tuesday 18 March 2014

Present:

Annabelle Ewing	Linda Fabiani
Jamie Hepburn (Deputy Convener)	Alex Johnstone
Ken Macintosh	Michael McMahon (Convener)
Kevin Stewart	

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.
2. **Scottish Welfare Fund:** The Committee took evidence from—
 - Graham Ritchie, Revenues & Benefits Service Manager, Angus Council;
 - Ian Black, Director of Finance & Shared Services, East Dunbartonshire Council;
 - Morag Johnston, Assistant Director of Financial Services, Glasgow City Council;
 - Stephen Devine, Scottish Welfare Fund Manager, North Lanarkshire Council;
 - Leslie Rendall, Revenues Manager, Orkney Islands Council;
 - Lynn Brady, Revenues & Benefits Service Manager, Perth & Kinross Council;
 - Gary Smith, Revenues and Benefits Manager, Scottish Borders Council;

Nicola Reid, Team Leader, Benefit Operations and Scottish Welfare Fund, West Lothian Council;

Margaret Burgess, Minister for Housing and Welfare, Ann McVie, Team Leader, Tackling Poverty and Scottish Welfare Fund, Andrew Waugh, Senior Assistant Statistician, and Jamie MacDougall, Head of Housing Transitions and Support Division, Scottish Government.

The Minister for Housing and Welfare agreed to provide the Committee with further information in relation to the processing time of crisis grants compared to the processing time of crisis loans in local authorities.

In addition, the Minister agreed to provide statistics on the percentage of Discretionary Housing Payments that have been used which were originally provided by the Department for Work & Pensions.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence from—

Jenny Brough, Team Leader, Local Government Finance and Local Taxation Unit, Scottish Government.

The Committee considered and noted the Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Amendment Regulations (SSI 2014/35).

4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed a letter to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

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