EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

15th Meeting, 2000 (Session 1)

Tuesday 2 May 2000

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 1, Committee Chambers.

1. Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Bill: The Committee will take evidence in Gaelic, with translation facilities available, on the Bill at Stage 2 in relation to the provision of Gaelic Medium Education from—

   Mr Alan Campbell (Chief Executive, Comunn na Gaidhlig)
   Mr John MacLeod (Convener, Comann nam Parant)
   Mr Fionnlagh MacLeod (Chief Executive, Comhairle Nan Sgoiltean Araich)

2. Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Bill: The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 2 in relation to school library services from—

   Mr Robert Craig (Director, Scottish Libraries Association)
   Ms Elizabeth Knowles (Education Development Officer, Perth and Kinross Council)

3. Update on Committee Business: The Committee will be updated on business in its current work programme.

   The Committee will adjourn for lunch and resume at 2pm.

4. Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Bill: The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 3).

Gillian Baxendine
Clerk to the Committee
Room 2.7 Committee Chambers
Ext. 85204
Email gillian.baxendine@scottish.parliament.uk
The following paper is attached for this meeting—

Scottish Library Association briefing paper
(Agenda item 2)

ED/00/15/1

The following paper is attached for information—

Executive response on consultation with young people on Scottish provisions in the Children (Leaving Care) Bill
**Education, Culture and Sport Committee**

**Meeting - Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} May 2000**

**Papers circulated**

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<th>Scottish Library Association briefing paper (Agenda item 2)</th>
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BRIEFING PAPER

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE 2/5/00

By seeking to make the role of the librarian in secondary schools statutory, the Association is looking to create equality of access for all pupils and eliminate existing pockets of exclusion within the education system. The need for good information skills is of primary importance if pupils are to play a full role in the Information Age. We believe that librarians have a key role to play in the delivery and development of such skills.

1. **How do school librarians contribute to raising standards?**
   a. Reinforcing what is learned in class – the school library is usually the first and often only resource consulted by many pupils for project work
   b. Providing access to print and electronic resources and developing skills to locate, evaluate and manage these resources
   c. Supporting literacy and ICT skills
   d. Participating in study and homework clubs.

2. **Present Position in Scotland**
   - Number of Schools: 391
   - Number of School Librarians: 361
   - Number of Schools without librarians: 30

3. **Comparative International Legislative Position**
   *School librarians posts are statutory in Finland, Norway, Denmark and some US states for example, Texas.*

4. **Framework for monitoring and improvement of services**

5. **Research**
   *Impact of Resource Centres go beyond the obvious in terms of skill development or finding information and are perceived as vital in providing equal opportunity for ICT and the development of life skills.* Library & Information Commission. *Value and Impact of School Librarians on Learning*. LIC, 2000.
   *Ofsted identified that...the presence of well-stocked libraries and professional librarians [in schools] contributes to high standards.* Ofsted. *A review of Ofsted findings 1993-4: English*. HMSO, 1995

   *Access to library staff and resources was second only to socio-economic conditions in predictors of academic achievement.* Lance, Keith Curry; Welborn, Lynda; Hamilton-Pennell, Christine. The impact of school library media centre on academic achievement. HiWillow, 1993.

The Scottish Library Association is the professional body for library and information workers in Scotland.