The Committee will meet in private for Item 1 at 1.30 pm in Committee Room 3 and then meet in public for item 2 onwards at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 2.

1. **Budget Process (in private):** The Committee will consider questions to the Minister.

2. **Budget Process:** The Committee will take evidence from the Minister for Children and Education, Mr Sam Galbraith, on the Education Department’s expenditure plans.

3. **Public Petitions:** The Committee will consider the following petitions—

   PE 171 by Mrs Michelle Terry on local council’s policies on closure or retention of rural schools in Scotland.

   PE 175 by Mr Neil Mackay on Argyll and Bute Council’s School Closure Programme.

   PE 153 by Risnidh Mag Aoidh on behalf of the Alba Branch of the Celtic League on access to Gaelic as a second language.

   PE 164 by Ms Sybelle Alexander requesting the introduction of state financed kindergartens.

   PE 184 by Federation of Child Poverty Action Groups in Scotland to extend the entitlement to free school meals to all families receiving tax credits and to introduce nutritional standards in schools.

   PE 160 Mr Ian Allan calling for Health and Safety training to be introduced into the school curriculum.
4. **Children’s Commissioner:** The Committee will discuss a memorandum from the Scottish Executive on the case for a Children’s Commissioner.

5. **Danish Symposium:** The Committee will consider an invitation from the Danish Cultural Institute to attend a symposium “Space for Children” in Edinburgh.

6. **Update on Committee business:** The Committee will be updated on business in its current work programme.

Gillian Baxendine
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Room 2.7 Committee Chambers
Ext. 85204
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The following papers are attached for this meeting—

Scottish Executive response on the budget process (to be circulated) (Agenda item 1) ED/00/18/1

Note by the Clerk on the Petitions (Agenda item 3) ED/00/18/2

PE 171 Mrs Michelle Terry (and extract of Official Report) ED/00/18/3

PE 175 Mr Neil Mackay (and extract of Official Report) ED/00/18/4

PE 153 Risnidh Mag Aoidh (and extract of Official Report) ED/00/18/5

PE 164 Ms Sybelle Alexander (and extract of Official Report) ED/00/18/6

PE 184 Federation of Child Poverty Action Groups ED/00/18/7

PE 160 Mr Ian Allan (and extract of Official Report) ED/00/18/8

Scottish Executive’s memorandum on Children’s Commissioner (Agenda item 4) ED/00/18/9

Note by Clerk on invitation from Danish Cultural Institute to “Space for Children” symposium (Agenda item 5) ED/00/18/10