The Committee will meet at 2.30 pm in the Chamber, Assembly Hall, The Mound, Edinburgh

1. **Item In Private**: The Committee will consider whether to take item 4 in private

2. **Children’s Commissioner Inquiry**: The Committee will take evidence from—
   - The Children’s Parliament
   - The Youth Parliament
   - Who Cares? Scotland
   - Children’s Rights Officers

3. **UK Adoption and Children Bill**: The Committee will consider an Executive memorandum on the UK Adoption and Children Bill.

4. **Scottish Ballet Inquiry (In private)**: The members will consider a draft report.

The following paper is attached for the meeting—

- Clerk’s note on Executive Memorandum (Agenda item 3) ED/01/29/1
- Draft Scottish Ballet report (Private paper) (Agenda item 4) ED/01/29/2/P
The following paper is attached for information—

Information leaflet on Children’s Parliament

Martin Verity
Clerk to the Committee
Room 2.7 Committee Chambers
Ext. 85204
Email: martin.verity@scottish.parliament.uk
Education, Culture and Sport Committee  
Tuesday 13 November  
Adoption and Children Bill – UK legislation

Purpose
1. The purpose of this item is to consider a Scottish Executive Memorandum (copy enclosed) on the UK Adoption and Children Bill and a covering letter (copy enclosed) from the Minister for Education, Europe & External Affairs, which invites the committee to note the Memorandum.

Background
2. The Memorandum concerns provisions in the UK Adoption and Children Bill, which will impact on Scottish legislation. The new provisions cover arrangements for the continuation of cross-border recognition of orders in respect of adoption procedures and paving the way for a reform of arrangements for the recognition of overseas adoption orders following changes in England and Wales.

3. The Parliament, at its meeting of 24 October agreed a Sewell motion in the following terms –

That the Parliament accepts the need to provide for continued mutual cross-border recognition of orders properly made by the separate GB jurisdictions in respect of adoption procedures; supports proposals for reform of recognition of overseas adoption orders, and agrees that the relevant provisions to achieve these ends in the Adoption and Children Bill should be considered by the UK Parliament.

4. The Parliament, at its meeting of 4 April 2001, had agreed the following Sewell motion in regard to the Bill –

That the Parliament endorses the principles contained in the Adoption and Children Bill concerning restrictions on bringing children into the UK for the purpose of adoption and on advertising children for adoption; agrees that the relevant provisions to achieve these principles in the Bill should be considered by the UK Parliament; recognises the importance of the place of adoption services within the spectrum of care for children and young people looked after by local authorities; agrees that a review of adoption policy and practice is desirable; supports the drive towards more integrated services for the benefits they bring to all children and young people within the care system, and agrees that the Executive should seek to promote the interests of such children with quality educational and other opportunities, and calls upon the Scottish Executive to undertake a comprehensive review of adoption and fostering legislation for Scotland, with a view to bringing forward a clear legal framework.
5. The Minister has indicated in his letter that he, or his Deputy Minister, would be happy to attend a meeting of the committee to answer questions on the Memorandum if that is the committee’s wish.

Recommendations
6. The committee is invited to note the Memorandum.

7. The committee is invited to consider whether it wishes to invite the Minister or his Deputy to a future meeting to answer questions on the Memorandum.

Martin Verity
Clerk to the Committee