HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

19th Meeting, 2010 (Session 3)

Wednesday 26 May 2010

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in Committee Room 3.

1. **Annual report:** The Committee will consider a draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 9 May 2009 to 8 May 2010.

2. **Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider a revised draft Stage 1 report.

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The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda Item 1**

Health and Sport Committee Annual Report 2009-10  
HS/S3/10/19/1

**Agenda Item 2**

PRIVATE PAPER  
HS/S3/10/19/2 (P)

PRIVATE PAPER  
HS/S3/10/19/3 (P)
The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows—

1. This report covers the work of the Committee during the parliamentary year 2009-10, from 9 May 2009 to 8 May 2010.

Inquiries

Inquiry into child and adolescent mental health services
2. The Committee published its report on this inquiry, which was undertaken in the previous parliamentary year, on 23 June 2009.

Pathways into sport inquiry
3. The Committee published its report on this inquiry, which was undertaken in the previous parliamentary year, on 14 May 2009.

Inquiry into the Clinical Portal Programme and Telehealth
4. In December 2009, the Committee held a short evidence gathering exercise with relevant stakeholders to examine ongoing development of the Clinical Portal Programme and telehealth development in Scotland. This inquiry followed on from a previous evidence session the Committee undertook with the Scottish Centre for Telehealth in June 2008.

5. The aim of the inquiry was to examine the current pace of development in the use of two specific areas of technology as a means of delivering a more efficient, responsive and patient-centred health service. These were the development of a clinical portal project by health boards and the ongoing use of telehealth applications.

6. The Committee published its report on this inquiry on 8 March 2010.

Inquiry into out-of-hours healthcare provision in rural areas
7. On 25 September 2009, the Committee launched a call for evidence for an inquiry to examine the changes to out-of-hours healthcare provision in rural areas and the resultant effect on—

- The quality of out-of-hours care in rural areas, with a specific focus on clinical safety and effectiveness;
- The accessibility and availability of out-of-hours care in rural areas; and
• The sustainability and cost of out-of-hours care in rural areas.

8. The Committee received 38 submissions in response to the call for evidence, and held three oral evidence sessions on the inquiry involving local stakeholders from rural communities, representatives from several health boards and the Scottish Government. One of the evidence sessions, on 25 January 2010, took place at an external meeting in Kinloch Rannoch, the subject of several of the submissions the Committee received in response to the call for evidence.


Legislation

Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Bill
10. The Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Bill was introduced by the Scottish Government on 25 February 2010. The Committee began its Stage 1 scrutiny on 13 May 2009, and held five oral evidence sessions as part of its consideration of the Bill. The Committee published its Stage 1 report on 14 September 2009.

11. The Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2 on 11 and 18 November 2009. A number of recommendations made by the Committee in its Stage 1 report were addressed by the Scottish Government. The Bill went on to be passed by the Scottish Parliament on 27 January 2010.

Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill
12. This Executive Bill was introduced by John Swinney MSP on 28 May 2009. The Health and Sport Committee were designated as one of three secondary committees and undertook scrutiny of Parts 4 and 5 of the Bill.

13. The Committee received 31 submissions in response to its call for evidence, and held three oral evidence sessions as part of its scrutiny of the Bill. The Committee reported to the Finance Committee on 12 October 2009. The Bill went on to receive Royal Assent on 28 April 2010.

Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Bill
14. The Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Bill was introduced by the Scottish Government on 25 November 2009. The Committee launched its call for evidence on 26 November 2009 and received 173 responses by the deadline for submissions.

15. As part of its approach to scrutiny of the Bill, four members of the Committee undertook a fact-finding trip to Finland and France.

16. The Committee held eight oral evidence sessions, one of which was a video conference with Canada, and will report on its findings in the next parliamentary year.

Subordinate Legislation
17. The Committee scrutinised 55 Scottish statutory instruments this year and published four reports. The Committee took oral evidence from Scottish Government ministers and officials where appropriate.
Budget scrutiny

18. The Committee considered the overall budgets for health and sport. It made a number of recommendations in its report to the Finance Committee but concluded that, as in previous years, a large proportion of health spending is allocated to territorial and special NHS boards, for which there is no information in the draft budget. As part of its scrutiny of the Scottish Government’s Budget Strategy 2010-11, the Committee agreed to hold an oral evidence session with representatives of several NHS boards. This evidence session will take place in the next parliamentary year.

Petitions

19. The Committee concluded scrutiny of three petitions related to sports facilities following its decision, in the previous parliamentary year, to consider them as part of its pathways into sport inquiry. As part of the inquiry, the Committee took evidence from representatives of the petitioners.

20. The Committee considered a petition on sleep apnoea and agreed to write to the Scottish Government, SIGN, NHS QIS, the UK Medical Research Council and the UK Department of Transport.

21. A petition on out-of-hours GP cover in remote and rural areas in Scotland was taken into account by the Committee as part of its inquiry into out-of-hours healthcare provision in rural areas.

22. The Committee also considered two petitions related to the Scottish Government’s proposal to raise the age for off-sales alcohol purchases from 18 to 21, and agreed to consider the issues that they raised as part of its consideration of section 8 of the Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Bill.

Equal opportunities

23. Consideration of equal opportunities was included in the Committee’s approach to its work. In its report on Pathways into Sport and Physical Activity, the Committee highlighted its concern that financial barriers were limiting access to sports facilities which can contribute to health inequalities.

24. Differential access to healthcare across Scotland was the subject of the inquiry into out-of-hours healthcare provision in rural areas. The Committee’s report on the inquiry into the Clinical Portal Programme and Telehealth again highlighted the need to improve healthcare delivery in remote and rural areas through the development of new technologies.

Meetings

25. During the parliamentary year (from 9 May 2009 to 8 May 2010), the Committee met 33 times. Of these meetings, nine were held entirely in public, 22 were held partly in private and two were held entirely in private. The purpose of the large majority of private items was to consider draft Committee reports.
26. Most Committee meetings were held in Edinburgh, with the exception of the third meeting of 2010 which was held at the Macdonald Loch Rannoch Hotel in Kinloch Rannoch on Monday 25 January.