



House of Commons
Scottish Affairs Committee

Minutes of Proceedings

Session 2007–08

The Scottish Affairs Committee

The Scottish Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Scotland Office (including (i) relations with the Scottish Parliament and (ii) administration and expenditure of the office of the Advocate General for Scotland but excluding individual cases and advice given within government by the Advocate General).

Membership during Session 2007–08

Mr Mohammad Sarwar MP, (*Lab, Glasgow Central*) (Chairman)
Danny Alexander MP, (*Lib Dem, Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey*) (discharged 28.1.08)
Mr Alistair Carmichael, (*Lib Dem, Orkney and Shetland*) (added 28.1.08)
Ms Katy Clark MP, (*Lab, North Ayrshire & Arran*)
Mr Ian Davidson MP, (*Lab, Glasgow South West*)
Mr Jim Devine MP, (*Lab, Livingston*)
Mr David Hamilton MP, (*Lab, Midlothian*) (added 8.11.07, discharged 4.2.08)
Mr John MacDougall MP, (*Lab, Glenrothes*) (died 13.08.2008)
Mr Jim McGovern MP, (*Lab, Dundee West*) (discharged 8.11.07, added 4.2.08)
Mr Angus MacNeil MP, (*SNP, Na h-Eileanan an Iar*) (discharged 24.11.08)
David Mundell MP, (*Con, Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale*)
Mr Charles Walker MP, (*Con, Broxbourne*)
Mr Ben Wallace MP, (*Con, Lancaster and Wyre*)
Pete Wishart MP, (*SNP, Perth and North Perthshire*) (added 24.11.08)

Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No. 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/scottish_affairs_committee.cfm.

Committee staff

The staff of the Committee during Session 2007–08 were Dr Sue Griffiths (Clerk), Charlotte Littleboy (Clerk), Jyoti Chandola, (Second Clerk), Duma Langton (Senior Committee Assistant), James Bowman (Committee Assistant), Becky Crew (Committee Assistant), Annabel Goddard (Committee Assistant), Nicola McCoy (Committee Assistant) and Karen Watling (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Scottish Affairs Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 6123; the Committee's email address is scotaffcom@parliament.uk.

Proceedings of the Committee

Tuesday 13 November 2007

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Ms Katy Clark

Mr Ian Davidson

Mr Jim Devine

Mr David Hamilton

Mr Angus MacNeil

David Mundell

Mr Charles Walker

Mr Ben Wallace

1. Declaration of interests

Mr David Hamilton declared that he had no relevant pecuniary interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992.

2. Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland.

3. Experience of the Scottish Elections

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from Mr Ron Gould and Mr Michael Boda.

Sam Younger, Chairman, Peter Wardle, Chief Executive, Andrew Scallan, Director of Electoral Administration and Boundaries, and Andy O'Neil, Head of Scotland Office, The Electoral Commission; and Mr Gerald McHugh, Head of Policy Division, Ms Sheila Scobie, Head of Policy Branch, and David Cairns MP, Minister of State, Scotland Office gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 20 November 11.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 20 November 2007

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Ms Katy Clark

David Mundell

Mr Ian Davidson

Mr Ben Wallace

Mr Jim Devine

1. ***Winter Supplementary Estimate 2007***

The Committee considered this matter.

The Explanatory Memorandum by the Scotland Office on the Winter Supplementary Estimate 2007 was ordered to be reported to the House for publication.

2. ***Future Programme***

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Glasgow in connection with the inquiry into Poverty in Scotland.

3. ***Effects of Tax Increases on the Oil Industry***

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Effects of Tax Increases on the Oil Industry*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, HC 35.

[Adjourned till Monday 26 November at 12.55 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, Edinburgh.]

Monday 26 November 2007

The Committee met at the Radisson Hotel, Edinburgh

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Ian Davidson

David Mundell

Mr Jim Devine

1. ***Future Programme***

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Poverty in Scotland*

The Committee considered this matter.

Councillor Harry McGuigan, Spokesperson on Community Safety and Well Being, and Jon Harrison, Strategic Director, COSLA, Richard Cairns, Head of Economic & Social Initiatives, Glasgow City Council, Brian Barker, Policy and Strategy Manager, and Jim McCrossan, Community Learning and Regeneration Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, and Mr Matthew Crighton, Job Strategy Manager at the Capital City Partnership; and Stewart Maxwell MSP, Minister for Communities and Sport, Mr Jamie Hamilton, Social Housing Division, Mr Mike Palmer, Social Inclusion Division and Mr Neil Langhorn, Head of the Antipoverty Strategy Team in the Social Inclusion Division, Scottish Executive, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 November at 11 a.m.]

Tuesday 27 November 2007

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Danny Alexander

Mr Jim Devine

Ms Katy Clark

Mr Ben Wallace

Poverty in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Caroline Flint MP, Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform and Mr Jonathan Portes, Director, Child and Poverty Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, Rt Hon Jane Kennedy MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr Jonathan Athow, Team Leader, Work Incentives and Poverty Analysis Team, HM Treasury, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 December at 11 a.m.]

Tuesday 11 December 2007

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Danny Alexander
Ms Katy Clark
Mr Ian Davidson
Mr Jim Devine

Mr Angus MacNeil
Mr Charles Walker
Mr Ben Wallace

Poverty in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Poverty in Scotland*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee, HC 128.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 January at 11 a.m.]

Monday 17 December 2008

The Chairman, Ms Katy Clark, Mr Ian Davidson and Mr Jim Devine visited Glasgow in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Poverty in Scotland, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 20 November.

Tuesday 15 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Ms Katy Clark
Mr Ian Davidson
Mr Jim Devine
Mr Angus MacNeil

David Mundell
Mr Charles Walker
Mr Ben Wallace

Experience of the Scottish Elections

The Committee considered this matter.

Ron Gould CM and Micheal Boda, Scottish Elections Review Team, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 January at 11 a.m.]

Tuesday 22 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Ms Katy Clark

David Mundell

Mr Jim Devine

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Secretary of State for Scotland in connection with the inquiry into Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland.

2. Child Poverty in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Child Poverty in Scotland*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Committee, HC 277.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Edinburgh on 4 February in connection with the inquiry into Poverty in Scotland.

3. Work of the Committee in 2007

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Work of the Committee in 2007*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 278.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 29 January at 11 a.m.]

Tuesday 29 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Ms Katy Clark

Mr Angus MacNeil

Mr Ian Davidson

David Mundell

Mr Jim Devine

Mr Ben Wallace

1. *Appointment of Specialist Adviser*

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That Mr Ric Cheadle CB be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland.

2. *Future Programme*

The Committee considered this matter.

3. *Publication of written evidence*

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland be reported to the House for publishing on the internet:

SHIPS 01—Warrick Malcolm, Head of Public Affairs, Society of British Aerospace Companies Scotland

SHIPS 02—John Howe, Vice Chairman, Thales UK

SHIPS 03—Unite the Union

SHIPS 04—Vic Emery, Managing Director, BAE Systems Surface Fleet Solutions

SHIPS 05—P Greenish, Chief Executive, The Royal Academy of Engineering

SHIPS 06— The Scotland Office

SHIPS 07— Scottish Enterprise

4. *Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland*

The Committee considered this matter.

David Lockwood, Managing Director, Optronics, Thales UK, Ken Munro, Head of Human Resources, Babcock Engineering, and Nigel Stewart, Commercial and New Business Director, BAE Systems, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 February at 11 a.m.]

Monday 4 February 2008

The Chairman, Mr Alistair Carmichael, Ms Katy Clark, Mr Ian Davidson and Mr Jim Devine visited Edinburgh in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Poverty in Scotland, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 22 January.

Tuesday 26 February 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael

Mr Jim McGovern

Mr Ian Davidson

Mr Ben Wallace

Mr Jim Devine

1. Declaration of interests

Mr Alistair Carmichael declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992, as follows: Overseas visit: 2–7 September 2007, to Palestine and Israel on fact-finding visit. Travel and accommodation funded by the Welfare Association UK.

Mr Jim McGovern declared that he had no relevant pecuniary interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992.

2. Distribution and printing of Committee Reports

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Effects of Tax Increases on the Oil Industry

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (*Effects of Tax Increases on the Oil Industry: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2007–08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the First Report from the Committee of Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

4. Spring Supplementary Estimates

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Explanatory Memorandum relating to the Spring Supplementary Estimates submitted by the Scotland Office be reported to the House for publishing on the internet.

5. *Future Programme*

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Glasgow in connection with the inquiry into Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland.

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Chairmen of the Welsh Affairs, Northern Ireland Affairs and Treasury Select Committees in connection with a possible inquiry into public expenditure in the UK.

6. *Experience of the Scottish Elections*

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Minister of State at the Scotland Office to request a supplementary memorandum in connection with the inquiry into the Experience of the Scottish Elections.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 March at 10.30 a.m.]

Tuesday 4 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Ian Davidson

David Mundell

Mr Jim Devine

Mr Charles Walker

Mr Angus MacNeil

1. *Future Programme*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland*

The Committee considered this matter.

Harry Donaldson, Regional Secretary, GMB Scotland, Kenny Jordan, Unite Amicus Section Regional Officer, Unite, Kevin McAlonan, Negotiations Officer, Prospect, and Satnam Ner, Chairman, Rosyth Royal Dockyard Branch, Prospect, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 11 March at 11 a.m.]

Tuesday 11 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael

Ms Katy Clark

Mr Ian Davidson

Mr Jim Devine

Mr Jim McGovern

David Mundell

Mr Charles Walker

Mr Ben Wallace

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Credit Unions in Scotland.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Dublin in connection with the inquiry into Credit Unions in Scotland, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Warrick Malcolm, Head of Public Affairs, and Andy Leather, Director, Society of British Aerospace Companies, John Coles, Chairman, UK Naval Engineering Science and Technology, and Hans Pung, Director, Defence and Security, RAND Europe, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 18 March at 11 a.m.]

Tuesday 18 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael

Mr Jim Devine

Mr Jim McGovern

Mr Charles Walker

1. Spring Supplementary Estimate

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Clerk write to the Scotland Office to seek further information on the Scotland Office's Spring Supplementary Estimate.

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Credit Unions in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Mr Jim Devine declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Committee's inquiry into Credit Unions in Scotland as a Member of Livingston Credit Union.

Rev Graham Blount, Secretary, Scottish Parliament Cross Party Cross Parliamentary Group on Tackling Debt, Susan McPhee, Head of Social Policy, Citizens Advice Scotland and Nancy McGillivray, Credit Union Network, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 April at 10.30 a.m. at Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow.]

Monday 31 March—Tuesday 1 April 2008

The Chairman, Mr Ian Davidson, Mr Jim Devine, Mr Jim McGovern and David Mundell visited Glasgow in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 26 February.

Tuesday 1 April 2008

The Committee met at Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Ian Davidson

Mr Jim McGovern

Mr Jim Devine

Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry

The Committee considered this matter.

Vic Emery, Managing Director, BAE Surface Fleet Solutions and Ian McMahon, Head of Aerospace, Defence and Marine, Scottish Enterprise, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 29 April at 12.30 p.m.]

Tuesday 29 April 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Ms Katy Clark

David Mundell

Mr Ian Davidson

Mr Charles Walker

Mr Angus MacNeil

Mr Ben Wallace

Mr Jim McGovern

1. Government and Scottish Executive Responses to the Committee's Reports on Poverty in Scotland and Child Poverty in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (*Poverty in Scotland and Child Poverty in Scotland: Responses by the Government and the Scottish Executive to the Committee's Second and Third Reports of Session 2007–08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Second and Third Reports from the Committee of Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

The Scottish Executive's response to the Second and Third Reports from the Committee of Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Resolved, That the Committee nominate its Report on Poverty in Scotland for debate in Westminster Hall.

2. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Clerk write to PCS Union requesting further information in connection with job losses in the Passport Office in Glasgow.

3. Credit Unions in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chairman write to the Liaison Committee in connection with the Committee's bid for travel to Ireland.

4. *Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland*

The Committee considered this matter.

Baroness Taylor of Bolton, Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support, Dr Andrew Tyler, Director General Ships Defence Equipment and Support, and Amyas Morse, Commercial Director, Ministry of Defence gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 7 May 2 p.m.]

Wednesday 7 May 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael

Mr Angus MacNeil

Ms Katy Clark

Mr Jim McGovern

Mr Ian Davidson

David Mundell

Mr Jim Devine

1. *Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland*

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland be reported to the House for publishing on the internet:

SHIPS 11- Scottish Engineering

SHIPS 12- Govan High School

2. *Experience of the Scottish Elections*

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Experience of the Scottish Elections*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Committee, HC 78.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 14 May at 2 p.m.]

Wednesday 14 May 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael	Mr Angus MacNeil
Ms Katy Clark	Mr Jim McGovern
Mr Ian Davidson	Mr Charles Walker
Mr Jim Devine	

1. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Katie Hutton, Head of Operations, Skills Interventions, and Hazel Mathieson, Regional Director East, Skills Intervention, Skills Development Scotland, and Kevin Sweeney, Govan High School, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 May at 2 p.m.]

Tuesday 21 May 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael	Mr Angus MacNeil
Mr Ian Davidson	David Mundell
Mr Jim Devine	

1. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Glasgow in connection with the inquiry into Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland.

2. Scottish Parliament finances and the Barnett Formula

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Clerk write to the Scotland Office requesting further information relating to the Departmental Annual Report.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 June at 9.45 a.m.]

Wednesday 11 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Ms Katy Clark	Mr Jim McGovern
Mr Ian Davidson	David Mundell
Mr Jim Devine	Mr Charles Walker
Mr Angus MacNeil	Mr Ben Wallace

1. *Forward Programme*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Commission on Scottish Devolution*

The Committee considered this matter.

Sir Kenneth Calman, Chair, Jim Gallagher, Secretary, and David Middleton, Head of Secretariat, Commission on Scottish Devolution, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till this day at 2 p.m.]

Wednesday 11 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Ian Davidson	Mr Jim McGovern
Mr Jim Devine	David Mundell
Mr Angus MacNeil	Mr Ben Wallace

1. *Credit Unions in Scotland*

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to credit unions in Scotland be reported to the House for publishing on the internet:

CRED 01—Scottish League of Credit Unions

CRED 03—Scotland Office
CRED 04—Church of Scotland
CRED 05—ABCUL

2. Forward Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Report (*Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 305.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 June at 4.30 p.m.]

Monday 23 June 2008

The Chairman, Mr Ian Davidson, Mr Jim Devine and Mr Angus MacNeil visited Glasgow in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 21 May.

Tuesday 24 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Ian Davidson

Mr Jim McGovern

Mr Jim Devine

David Mundell

Mr Angus MacNeil

1. Experience of the Scottish Elections

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (*Experience of the Scottish Election: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007–08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Fifth Report from the Committee of Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Third Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House

2. Forward Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Petrochemicals Business in Grangemouth and that the Committee visit Grangemouth in connection with this inquiry.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Lanarkshire in connection with its inquiry into Credit Unions in Scotland.

3. Scotland Office Annual Report

The Committee considered this matter.

Rt Hon Des Browne MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, David Cairns MP, Minister of State for Scotland and David Middleton, Head of the Scotland Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 July at 2 p.m.]

Wednesday 9 July 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael

Mr Jim McGovern

Mr Jim Devine

Mr Ben Wallace

Mr Angus MacNeil

1. Forward Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Scotland and the European Union.

2. Credit Unions in Scotland

The Committee considered this matter.

Mr Mark Lyonette, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr Frank McKillop, Scottish Policy Officer, Association of British Credit Unions Limited, and Dr Peter Goth, Manager, Scottish League of Credit Unions, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 15 October at 2 p.m.]

Monday 14 July 2008

The Chairman, Mr Alistair Carmichael and Mr Jim McGovern visited Grangemouth in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Petrochemicals Business in Grangemouth, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 24 June.

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael

Mr Jim Devine

Ms Katy Clark

Mr Angus MacNeil

1. *Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland*

The Committee considered this matter.

Draft Special Report (*Employment and Skills for the Defence Industry in Scotland: Responses by the Government and Scottish Executive to the Committee's Sixth Report of Session 2007–08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Sixth Report from the Committee of Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

The Scottish Executive's response to the Sixth Report from the Committee of Session 2007–08 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

2. *Scotland and the European Union*

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to Scotland and the European Union be reported to the House for publishing on the internet:

EU 01- Dr Alex Wright, University of Dundee

EU 02- the Scotland Office

EU 03- the Scottish Fishermen's Federation

Resolved, That the Committee visit Brussels in connection with the inquiry into Scotland and the European Union.

Resolved, That the Committee meet the Scottish Parliament European and External Relations Committee in connection with the inquiry into Scotland and the European Union.

Ordered, That the Committee request written evidence from European Commission, UK Parliament and Scottish Parliament in connection with the inquiry into Scotland and the European Union.

3. Forward Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Scotland.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from Commission on Scottish Devolution.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence on the Implications of the Scottish economy of the current economic climate.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Meeting Scotland's Future Energy Needs.

Resolved, That the Committee host a delegation of Indonesian MPs to discuss issues of devolved government.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19 November at 2.15 p.m.]

Monday 20 October 2008

The Chairman and Mr Jim Devine visited Lanarkshire in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Credit Unions in Scotland, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 24 June.

Wednesday 19 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Mohammad Sarwar, in the Chair

Mr Alistair Carmichael

Mr Ian Davidson

Mr Jim Devine

Mr Angus MacNeil

Mr Jim McGovern

David Mundell

Mr Charles Walker

Mr Ben Wallace

1. *Future programme*

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the site of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence on the Enforcement of the National Minimum Wage in Scotland.

2. *Office of the Advocate General for Scotland*

The Committee considered this matter.

Lord Davidson of Glen Cova QC, Advocate-General for Scotland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 December at 2 p.m.]