



House of Commons
Scottish Affairs Committee

Formal Minutes of the Committee

Session 2014–15

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 offices of the Advocate General for Scotland (but excluding individual cases and advice given within government by the Advocate General)).

Current membership

Mr Ian Davidson (*Labour/Co-op, Glasgow South West*) (Chair)
Mike Crockart (*Liberal Democrat, Edinburgh West*)
Jim McGovern (*Labour, Dundee West*)
Iain McKenzie (*Labour, Inverclyde*)
Mark Menzies (*Conservative, Fylde*)
Graeme Morrice MP (*Labour, Livingston*)
Pamela Nash (*Labour, Airdrie and Shotts*)
Sir James Paice (*Conservative, South East Cambridgeshire*)
Simon Reeve (*Conservative, Dewsbury*)
Mr Alan Reid (*Liberal Democrat, Argyll and Bute*)
Dr Eilidh Whiteford (*Scottish National Party, Banff and Buchan*)

The following members were also members of the committee during the Parliament:

Mrs Eleanor Laing (*Conservative, Epping Forest*)
Lindsay Roy (*Labour, Glenrothes*)

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/scotaffcom.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Dr Rebecca Davies (Clerk), Jyoti Chandola (Clerk), Phil Jones (Second Clerk), Alasdair Mackenzie (Inquiry Manager), Helena Ali (Senior Committee Assistant), Annabel Goddard (Committee Assistant).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Scottish Affairs Committee, House of Commons, 14 Tothill Street, Westminster, London, SW1H 9NB. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 6123; the Committee's email address is scotaffcom@parliament.uk.

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 11 June 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice
Pamela Nash

Sir Jim Paice
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Ordered, That the supplementary written evidence relating to *The Referendum on Separation for Scotland*, submitted by Danny Alexander MP, Steve Webb MP and James Brokenshire MP, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Land Reform in Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Land Reform in Scotland*, submitted by HMRC and Rio Tinto Alcan, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Zero Hours Contracts

David Dickson, Route Managing Director, Scotland and Robert McIntosh, Regional Director, Investment Projects, Scotland and North East, Network Rail, gave oral evidence;

Shelia Gupta, Director of HR, University of Edinburgh, Christine Barr, Director of HR, University of Glasgow and Helen Fairfoul, Chief Executive, Universities and Colleges Employers Association, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 June 2014 at 2.00 p.m.]

Monday 16 June

The Chair and Pamela Nash visited Dumfries, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into The South of Scotland, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 6 May.

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 18 June 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice

Sir Jim Paice
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

The Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and Cathy Jamieson MP, Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 June 2014 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 25 June 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Compliance with the National Minimum Wage in Scotland

David Norgrove, Chair, and Tim Butcher, Deputy Chair, Low Pay Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 July 2014 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 1 July 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Pamela Nash
Sir Jim Paice
Simon Reeve

Mr Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Impact of the Bedroom Tax in Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *The impact of the Bedroom Tax in Scotland*, submitted by Rt Hon David Mundell MP and written evidence submitted by Lord Freud, Rt Hon David Mundell MP and Nicola Sturgeon MSP, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Draft Report (*The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Implications for Pensions and Benefits*), the Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 July 2014 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 2 July 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Mr Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Draft Report (*The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Implications for Pensions and Benefits*), proposed by the Chair, 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 498.

Adam Tomkins, Professor of Public Law, University of Glasgow, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 July 2014 at 11.15 a.m.]

Formal Minutes

Morning Session

Tuesday 8 July 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockett
Graeme Morrice
Pamela Nash

Mr Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Glasgow in connection with its inquiry into the Referendum on Separation for Scotland.

2. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Kenny Jordan, Unite District Secretary, Eric McLeod, GMB convenor TU Secretary, and Raymond Duguid, Unite Convenor TU Chairman, Babcock International Group; Andy Johnston, Trade Union Liaison and Site Convenor, Optronics Business Segment, Ronnie Taylor, Software Engineer and Unite Shop Steward, Thales UK, and Henry Wilson, Lead Detail Designer and Staff Convenor, BAE Systems, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till this day at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Afternoon session

Tuesday 8 July 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice
Pamela Nash

Sir Jim Paice
Mr Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Land Reform in Scotland

Ian Cooke, Director, Development Trusts Association Scotland; Jon Hollingdale, Chief Executive, Community Woodlands Association and Dr Calum Macleod, gave oral evidence.

Alasdair Humphery, Chair, and John Hamilton, Vice Chair, Scottish Property Federation, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 July 2014 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 9 July 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Edinburgh in connection with its inquiry into The Referendum on Separation for Scotland.

2. Our Borderlands – Our Future

Draft Report (*Our Borderlands – Our Future*), proposed by the Chair, 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 556).

3. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Draft Report (*The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Currency Options and Financial Services*), the Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *The Referendum on Separation for Scotland*, submitted by Lawyers for Yes, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Monday 14 July 2014 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Monday 14 July 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Blacklisting in Employment

Gail Cartmail, Assistant General Secretary, Unite, Justin Bowden, National Officer, GMB and Mr Steve Murphy, General Secretary, UCATT, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16 July 2014 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 16 July 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice
Pamela Nash

Sir Jim Paice
Simon Reeve
Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

The interests of Mark Menzies MP were declared. (*For details of declaration of interests, see Appendix 1*).

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Draft Report (*The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: no doubt–no currency union*), proposed by the Chair, 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 499.

3. Blacklisting in Employment

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Blacklisting in Employment*, submitted by GMB, Unite and Edward Allan, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Compliance with the National Minimum Wage in Scotland

Ordered, That the supplementary written evidence relating to *Compliance with the National Minimum Wage in Scotland*, submitted by The Low Pay Commission, be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

5. Land Reform in Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Land Reform*, submitted by Community Woodlands Association and Andrew Bradford, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

6. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

The interests of the following Specialist Advisor were declared: Jim Gallagher. (*For details of declaration of interests, see Appendix 2*).

7. Blacklisting in Employment

Richard Slaven, Partner, Pinsent Masons, Callum Tuckett, Group Finance and Commercial Director, Laing O'Rourke, Andrew Ridley-Barker, Managing Director, VINCI Construction UK, Nick Pollard, Chief Executive Officer, Balfour Beatty, and Richard Jukes, Managing Director, Public Affairs, Grayling, gave oral evidence on oath.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5 August 2014 at 9.45 a.m.]

Appendix 1

MENZIES, Mark (Fylde) – Registered Financial Interests

Overseas visits

Name of donor: European Azerbaijan Society

Address of donor: 2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1H 9AA

Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): flights and accommodation with a Value of £4,000

Destination of visit: Baku and Ganja, Azerbaijan

Date of visit: 30 May – 4 June 2013

Purpose of visit: As part of the APPG for Azerbaijan, to meet with political and parliamentary Figures including the President of the Republic; local business people; representatives of international organizations and human rights groups and displaced people from the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

(Registered 9 July 2013)

Name of donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Saudi Arabia)

Address of donor: c/o Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, 30-32 Charles St, London W1J 5DZ

Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): £5,292

Destination of visit: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Date of visit: 16-20 February 2014

Purpose of visit: all party parliamentary delegation at the invitation of the Shura Council, to meet the Deputy Speaker, Foreign Affairs Committee, Second Deputy Premier, government ministers and Governor of the Saudi Arabia Monetary Authority. Also to visit King Saud

University to discuss collaboration with UK universities on de-radicalisation.
(Registered 21 March 2014)

Appendix 2

Dear Rebecca

Just to respond formally to your letter of 23 June.

As you already know, I continue to advise the Better Together campaign as well as the Committee. This is of course well known in the public domain.

Almost all my other interests are irrelevant (mostly in the financial services world) but I list them for completeness sake below.

One thing I have recently taken on is an unpaid directorship at the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, which is an international development charity based in Glasgow.

It's just conceivable that some of the committee's work on the referendum might touch on international aid policy.

Jim Gallagher

Interests

Directorships

- Reassure UK Ltd
- Admin Re Services UK Ltd

[Both UK subsidiaries of Swiss Re Ltd]

Non-executive positions

- Royal London Assurance group, with profits committee

Pro Bono positions

- Council member, Law Society of Scotland
- Director Scottish Catholic international aid fund

Academic appointments

- Research fellow, Nuffield College Oxford
- Visiting Prof, University of Glasgow

Formal Minutes

Morning Session

Tuesday 5 August 2014

The Committee met at City Chambers, in Edinburgh

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockett
Graeme Morrice

Lindsay Roy

1. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Professor David Bell, Professor of Economics, Stirling University; Dr Angus Armstrong, Director of Macroeconomics, National Institute of Economic and Social Research; Professor Ronald MacDonald, Professor of Economics, University of Glasgow; Owen Kelly, Chief Executive, Scottish Financial Enterprise; and Iain McMillan, Director, CBI Scotland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till this day at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Afternoon Session

Tuesday 5 August 2014

The Committee met at City Chambers, in Edinburgh

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockett
Graeme Morrice

Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Blacklisting in Employment

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Blacklisting in Employment*, submitted by GMB, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Land Reform in Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Land Reform in Scotland*, submitted by The Historic Houses Association Scotland, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Our Borderlands—Our Future

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Our Borderlands—Our Future*, submitted Christopher George Lewin, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Land Reform in Scotland

Dr Alison Elliot, Chair, Land Reform Review Group, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 14 August at 9.45 a.m.]

Formal Minutes

Morning Session

Thursday 14 August 2014

The Committee met at City Halls, in Glasgow

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Pamela Nash
Graeme Morrice

Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *The Referendum on Separation for Scotland*, submitted by David Simpson, written evidence submitted by Sandy Allsopp and written evidence submitted by MoD, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Blacklisting in Employment

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Blacklisting in Employment*, submitted by TCWCS and Pinsent Masons LLP, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Defence Industry

Jim Moohan, Chairman, CSEU Scotland, Kenny Jordan, Regional Secretary, CSEU Scotland, Joe McLaren, UCATT Regional Office, Gillian McKay, Unite Regional Officer, Eric McLeod, DIJC Secretary, Babcock Marine, Rosyth, Raymond Duguid, DIJC Chairman, Babcock Marine Rosyth, Duncan McPhee, Unite Convenor, BAE Systems, Scotstoun, Henry Wilson, Unite Staff Convenor, BAE Systems, Scotstoun, Jamie Webster, GMB Convenor, BAE Systems, Govan, Billy McKay, Unite Convenor, BAE Systems, Govan, Ronnie Taylor, Senior Unite Shop Steward, Thales UK, Glasgow, Jim Bredin, Senior Unite Shop Steward, Thales UK, Glasgow, Tam Mitchell, Unite Convenor, Rolls Royce PLC, East Kilbride, Jim Thomson, Unite Convenor, Selex ES, Edinburgh, and James Cull, Senior Unite Shop Steward, Selex ES, Edinburgh, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till this day at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Afternoon Session

Thursday 14 August 2014

The Committee met at City Halls, in Glasgow

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Pamela Nash
Graeme Morrice

Lindsay Roy

1. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Pensions

Joanne Segars, Chief Executive, National Association of Pension Funds, and Steven Dignall, Membership Communications Manager, National Association of Pension Funds, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 15 October at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 15 October 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice
Pamela Nash

Sir Jim Paice
Mr Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Borderlands in connection with its inquiry into Our Borderlands – Our Future.

2. Blacklisting in Employment

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Blacklisting in Employment*, submitted by Mark Campbell-Roddis, Balfour Beatty, Laing O'Rourke and VINCI PLC, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Our Borderlands – Our Future

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Our Borderlands – Our Future*, submitted by Dumfries Galloway Chamber of Commerce, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Borders Council SNP Group, Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce, Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Partnership (Executive Group), Campaign for Borders Rail, The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce Fellows' Borders Network, Archie Dryburgh, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Land & Estates, Scottish Enterprise, Yuill Community Trust: CIC and NFU Scotland, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. The Referendum on Separation for Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *The Referendum on Separation for Scotland*, submitted by the Ministry of Defence, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Land Reform in Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Land Reform in Scotland*, submitted by Ian Cooke, Jon Hollingdale and Calum Macleod, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

The interests of the following Specialist Advisor were declared: Jim Hunter. (*For details of the declaration of interests, see Appendix 1*).

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5 November at 1.00 p.m.]

Appendix 1

31 July 2014

Dear Rebecca

Further to your letter of 23 June asking me to disclose any interests relevant to my role as a Special Adviser to the Scottish Affairs Committee.

I am an associate member of Community Land Scotland and, from time to time, most recently, in January and February of this year, have carried out some paid research work for CLS.

I am an honorary member of the Scottish Crofting Federation.

I have no other relevant interests.

As you know, my advisory role was confined to the early period last year of the Committee's enquiries into land reform in Scotland. I have had no role with regard to the Committee's enquiries since that time.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Hunter

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 5 November 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Mr Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee postpone the visit to the Borderlands in connection with its inquiry into Our Borderlands – Our Future.

2. The Scotland Office Annual Report

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland and Alun Evans, Director of the Scotland Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 December at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 3 December 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Mr Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

1. Our Borderlands – Our Future

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Our Borderlands – Our Future*, submitted by NHS Borders and AIMUp, Peebles Community Council and Peebles Community Trust, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Reviewing Previous Inquiries

Resolved, That the review of previous inquiries be agreed on 17 December 2014.

3. The Smith Commission: Proposals for Further Devolution to Scotland

Lord Smith of Kelvin, and Jenny Bates, Head of the Smith Commission Secretariat, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 December at 2.45 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 16 December 2014

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Mark Menzies

Graeme Morrice
Mr Alan Reid
Lindsay Roy

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Memorandum on Effectiveness

The draft *Memorandum on Effectiveness* for the Liaison Committee, was considered by the Committee.

3. The Smith Commission: Proposals for Further Devolution to Scotland

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 7 January at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 7 January 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Impact of closure of City Link on employment in Scotland.

2. Visits

Resolved, That the Committee visit Glasgow on Monday 12 January for an informal meeting in connection with the inquiry into the Impact of closure of City Link on employment in Scotland.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Langholm on Monday 26 January for formal evidence sessions in connection with the inquiry into Our Borderlands – Our Future.

Resolved, That the Committee visit Galashiels on Monday 9 February for formal evidence sessions in connection with the inquiry into Our Borderlands – Our Future.

3. Specialist Advisors

Resolved, That the Specialist Advisors Andy Wightman and Jim Gallagher are re-appointed.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 January at 11.00 a.m.]

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 13 January 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockett
Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Impact of closure of City Link on Employment

Mick Cash, General Secretary, Steve Hedley, Senior Assistant General Secretary, and Gordon Martin, Scottish Regional Organiser, of the Rail, Maritime, and Transport Union (RMT), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 14 January at 2.00 p.m.]

Monday 12 January

The Chair and Pamela Nash visited Glasgow, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Impact of closure of City Link on employment in Scotland, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 7 January.

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 14 January 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice
Pamela Nash

Sir Jim Paice
Simon Reeves
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Smith Commission: Proposals for Further Devolution to Scotland

David Philips, Senior Research Economist, Institute for Fiscal Studies, and Professor John McLaren, Honorary Professor of Public Policy, Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 January at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 21 January 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Sir Jim Paice
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Our Borderlands – Our Future

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Our Borderlands – Our Future*, submitted by Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Land Reform in Scotland

Mike Crabtree, Specialist Personal Tax Directorate, Adrian Cooper, Specialist Personal Tax Directorate, and Wayne Strangwood, International and Stamps Directorate, HMRC, gave oral evidence

Richard Murphy, Tax Research UK, Megan MacInnes, Head of Land Team, Global Witness, and James Robertson, Chartered Accountant, Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland (ICAS), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 January at 9.45 a.m.]

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 27 January 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Smith Commission: Proposals for Further Devolution to Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *The Smith Commission: Proposals for Further Devolution to Scotland*, submitted by Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Impact of the Closure of City Link on Employment

Concurrent meeting with Business, Innovation and Skills Committee.

Jon Moulton, Founder, Better Capital, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3 February 2015 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 3 February 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice

Sir Jim Paice
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Our Borderlands – Our Future

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Our Borderlands – Our Future*, submitted by John Stevenson MP, be reported to the House for Publication on the internet.

2. The Smith Commission: Proposals for Further Devolution to Scotland

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland and Laura Crawford, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 February 2015 at 2.30 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 4 February 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Mark Menzies

Graeme Morrice
Sir Jim Paice
Pamela Nash

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Land Reform in Scotland

David Ian Jones, General Manager, Rio Tinto Alcan, Lochaber, gave oral evidence.

3. Impact of the closure of City Link on employment

Concurrent meeting with Business, Innovation and Skills Committee.

Hunter Kelly, City Link administrator, Ernst and Young, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 9 February 2015 at 9.45 a.m.]

Formal Minutes

Morning Session

Monday 9 February 2015

The Committee met at Borders College, in Galashiels

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockett
Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice

Sir Jim Paice
Pamela Nash

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Our Borderlands – Our Future

Michael Moore, MP for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk, gave oral evidence.

Bruce Simpson, Vice Convener, Scottish Borders Chamber of Commerce, Brian Richardson, Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce, Paul Lewis, and Alistair McKinnon, Scottish Enterprise, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till this day at 1.15 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Afternoon Session

Monday 9 February 2015

The Committee met at Borders College, in Galashiels

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockett

Sir Jim Paice

Mark Menzies

Pamela Nash

Graeme Morrice

1. Our Borderlands – Our Future

Gavin Yuill, Yuill Community Trust, Teresa Dougall, and James Pringle, Scottish Land and Estates, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 10 February 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Jim McGovern
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter

2. Our Borderlands – Our Future

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Our Borderlands – Our Future*, submitted by Joan McAlpine MSP, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. The Scotland Office Annual Report

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *The Scotland Office Annual Report*, submitted by The Scotland Office, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Impact of the closure of City Link on employment

David Smith, Former Chief Executive, City Link, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 4 March 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Iain McKenzie
Mark Menzies

Graeme Morrice
Pamela Nash
Mr Alan Reid

There were no declared interests from Iain McKenzie MP.

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Smith Commission: Proposals for Further Devolution to Scotland

Draft Report (*The Implementation of the Smith Agreement*), proposed by the Chair, 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 835.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *The Smith Commission: Proposals for Further Devolution to Scotland*, submitted by Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Impact of the closure of City Link on Employment

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Impact of the closure of City Link on Employment*, submitted by Hunter Kelly, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

The Committee agreed the appointment of the following Specialist Advisor: John Francis. (*For details of declaration of interests, see Appendix 1*).

4. Land Reform in Scotland

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Land Reform in Scotland*, submitted by Gilles Morrison, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Sports Direct: employment practices and the sale of USC

Ordered, That the Correspondence relating to *Sports Direct: employment practices and the sale of USC*, submitted by Reynolds Porter Chamberlain LLP, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 17 March 2015 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 17 March 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Mike Crockart
Iain McKenzie
Jim McGovern

Mark Menzies
Graeme Morrice
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Impact of the closure of City Link on employment

Concurrent meeting with Business, Innovation and Skills Committee.

Draft Report (*Impact of the closure of City Link on employment*), proposed by the Chair, 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 928.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *Impact of the closure of City Link on employment*, be reported to the House for publication on the internet;

Better Capital and P Ingall Transport.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 18 March 2015

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 24 March 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Jim McGovern
Mark Menzies

Graeme Morrice
Mr Alan Reid

1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Land Reform in Scotland

Draft Report (*Land Reform: Final Report*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Eighth Report of the Committee, HC 274.

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Land Reform in Scotland*, submitted by HMRC, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Scottish Affairs Committee: Legacy Report

Draft Report (*Scottish Affairs Committee: Legacy Report*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Ninth Report of the Committee, HC 1130.

4. Zero Hours Contracts

Ordered, That the correspondence relating to *Zero Hours Contracts*, submitted by UCU, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Sports Direct: employment practises and the sale of USC

Ordered, That the correspondence, sports direct contract of employment, relating to *Sports Direct: employment practices and the sale of USC*, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 2.00 p.m.]

Formal Minutes

Wednesday 25 March 2015

Members present:

Mr Ian Davidson, in the Chair

Jim McGovern
Iain McKenzie
Graeme Morrice

Pamela Nash
Simon Reevell
Mr Alan Reid

1. Blacklisting in Employment

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to *Blacklisting in Employment*, a selection of Ian Davidson MP's copies of papers provided to him by Mrs M. Kerr, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Sports Direct: employment practises and the sale of USC

Ordered, That the Correspondence with Reynolds Porter Chamberlain LLP relating to request for oral evidence from Sports Direct, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Dr Keith Hellewell, Chairman, Sports Direct International, gave oral evidence.

Philip Duffy, Duff and Phelps, USC Administrator, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned to a date and time to be agreed by the Chair