



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

29th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Tuesday 18 November 2014

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4).

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take items 3 and 4 in private.
2. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2015-16:** The Committee will take evidence on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2015-16 from—

Andrew Alexander, Head of Access to Justice, Law Society of Scotland;

Alan McCloskey, Director of Operations, Victim Support Scotland;

and then from—

Catherine Dyer, Crown Agent and Chief Executive, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service;

Fiona Eadie, Secretary, Procurators Fiscal Society Section, FDA Union;

Brian Carroll, Branch Secretary in the Scottish Court Service, Public and Commercial Services Union;

and then from—

Eric McQueen, Chief Executive, and Cliff Binning, Chief Operations Officer, Scottish Court Service;

Martin McKenna, Acting Deputy Director, Scottish Tribunals Service and Parole Unit, Scottish Government.

3. **Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider its approach to consideration of the Public Services Reform (Inspection and Monitoring of Prisons) (Scotland) Order 2014 [draft].

Joanne Clinton
Clerk to the Justice Committee
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 01313485220
Email: Joanne.Clinton@scottish.parliament.uk

The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Agenda item 2

Paper by the clerk	J/S4/14/29/1
Private paper	J/S4/14/29/2 (P)

[SPICe Briefing: Draft Budget 2015-16: Justice](#)

[Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2015-16](#)

[Written submissions received on the Draft Budget 2015-16](#)

Agenda item 3

Private paper	J/S4/14/29/3 (P)
---------------	------------------

[Prisoners \(Control of Release\) \(Scotland\) Bill and accompanying documents](#)

Agenda item 4

Private paper	J/S4/14/29/4 (P)
---------------	------------------

[Public Services Reform \(Inspection and Monitoring of Prisons\) \(Scotland\) Order 2014](#)

Justice Committee

29th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4), Tuesday 18 November 2014

Draft Budget 2015-16

Note by the clerk

Background

1. The Scottish Government published its Draft Budget 2015-16¹ on 9 October 2014. The Justice Committee has agreed to focus this year's budget scrutiny on the police² and courts budgets. At this meeting, the Committee will hear from three panels of witnesses in relation to the courts budget. The Cabinet Secretary for Justice will respond to the issues raised in evidence at the Committee meeting on 25 November.

2. SPICe has produced a briefing, *Draft Budget 2015-16: Justice (14/75)*, which contains detailed information on the Justice and Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) budgets, with a particular focus on the two main areas of scrutiny identified by the Committee. This briefing was circulated to members with meeting papers for the 4 November meeting.³

Courts budget 2015-16

Written evidence

3. To assist this year's scrutiny of the courts budget, the Committee asked the Scottish Court Service (SCS) to provide the following additional budgetary information. This material is included in its written submission:

- a breakdown of how the courts budget for 2014-15 has been allocated and how specific savings for that year were made;
- how the SCS plans to allocate its budget and make the specified savings for 2015-16;
- any significant factors which limit the SCS's flexibility in managing relevant budgets; and
- any potential ways of achieving savings which have been considered but rejected.

4. Written submissions have also been received from other witnesses giving evidence at this meeting, including Victim Support Scotland, Law Society of Scotland, and COPFS. Scottish Women's Aid is unable to send a representative to participate in the evidence session, but has provided a written submission. All submissions are available at the following web page:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/83201.aspx>

Next steps

5. The Committee is invited to consider this information alongside the SPICe briefing, *Draft Budget 2015-16: Justice (14/75)* and paper 2 from SPICe, in advance of taking evidence from witnesses on the courts budget at the meeting.

¹ The Draft Budget 2015-16 is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00460440.pdf>

² The Committee took evidence on the police budget on 4 and 11 November and is due to hear from the Chief Constable on 25 November.

³ SPICe briefing is available at:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_14-75.pdf