



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)

Tuesday 19 February 2013

Present:

Roderick Campbell	John Finnie
Christine Grahame (Convener)	Colin Keir
Jenny Marra (Deputy Convener)	Alison McInnes
Graeme Pearson	Sandra White

Apologies were received from David McLetchie.

The meeting opened at 10.46 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5 in private.
2. **Policing:** The Committee considered correspondence from the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and agreed to: (a) write again to the SPA requesting a copy of the full documentation that comprised the codicil referred to in the SPA's original letter of 18 January; and (b) to decline an invitation to hold an informal discussion with SPA Board Members on plans for future engagement.
3. **Policing:** The Committee considered the arrangements for future scrutiny of policing and agreed to write to the Presiding Officer proposing the establishment of a sub-committee and that (a) it be composed of six members (two SNP members and one each from the other political parties and group represented on the Parliamentary Bureau); (b) its membership should comprise four members of the Justice Committee plus one each from the Local Government and Regeneration Committee and the Equal Opportunities Committee; (c) (by division: For 4, Against 2, Abstentions 1) the Convener of the Justice Committee should also convene the sub-committee; (d) its remit be "To consider and report on the operation of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012"; and (e) it should continue until the end of the Parliamentary session.

4. **Crime and Courts Bill (UK Parliament legislation):** The Committee considered the legislative consent memorandum lodged by Kenny MacAskill (LCM(S4) 11.2) and agreed to delegate to the Convener responsibility to agree the Committee's report.
5. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee received an update on communication with the Crown Office and agreed to write to the Crown Agent seeking information on the procedure in place for a complaint to be investigated where it is made against the current or a previous Lord Advocate in his capacity as head of the prosecution service in Scotland.
6. **Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and agreed: (a) to focus its scrutiny on the victims and witnesses provisions in the Bill; (b) the proposed timetable for scrutiny of the Bill; (c) to issue a call for written evidence; (d) not to appoint an adviser; and (e) to explore further at a future meeting suggested witnesses and proposals for potential fact-finding visits.

The meeting closed at 12.16 pm.

Irene Fleming
Clerk to the Justice Committee
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5195
Email: irene.fleming@scottish.parliament.uk