



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

8th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Tuesday 11 March 2014

Present:

Christian Allard

John Finnie

Alison McInnes

Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)

Sandra White

Roderick Campbell

Christine Grahame (Convener)

Margaret Mitchell

John Pentland

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5 in private.
2. **Fire and Rescue Service Reform:** The Committee took evidence from—
 - John Duffy, Scottish Secretary, Fire Brigades Union;
 - John Hackett, Regional Organiser, Unison Scotland;
 - Nick Croft, Corporate Policy and Strategy Manager, Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership;
 - Pat Watters, Chair, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board;
 - Alasdair Hay, Chief Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;
 - Steven Torrie, HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
3. **Petition PE1504:** The Committee considered a petition by Kathie Mclean-Toremor on party litigants - civil appeals to the Supreme Court and agreed to keep the petition open, to write to the petitioner seeking further information and to consider the issues raised by the petition in the context of its scrutiny of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill.

Roderick Campbell indicated that he is a member of the Faculty of Advocates.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee further considered the following negative instrument—

Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Amendment Rules 2014 (SSI 2014/26).

The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government seeking a response to the issues raised by the Association of Visiting Committees in its response to the Committee and to consider the instrument again at its next meeting.

5. **Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee inquiry into the procedures for considering legislation in the Parliament (in private):** The Committee considered a draft response and agreed to consider a revised draft at its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

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