



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

9th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Tuesday 18 March 2014

Present:

Christian Allard

John Finnie

Alison McInnes

Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)

Roderick Campbell

Christine Grahame (Convener)

Margaret Mitchell

John Pentland

Apologies were received from Sandra White.

The meeting opened at 10.01 am.

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Fred Tyler, Member of the Civil Justice Committee, Law Society of Scotland;

James Wolffe QC, Dean, Faculty of Advocates;

Julia Clarke, Principal Advocate, Which?;

Lauren Wood, Policy Manager, Citizens Advice Scotland;

Sheriff Gordon Liddle, Sheriff Lindsay Wood, and Sheriff Colin William Pettigrew, Sheriffs' Association.

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

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

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

The Committee noted the response from the Scottish Government to the issues raised by the Association of Visiting Committees and agreed to make no recommendation in relation to the instrument.

4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed to: (a) invite Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal to give evidence on the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill and to consider its approach to the Bill after the summer recess; (b) invite Sheriff Principal Taylor to give evidence on the Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill at its meeting on 22 April 2014; (c) publish a report on its review of the operation of fire and rescue reform once the reforms have become established; (d) hold a joint evidence session with HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland and HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service after the Chief Inspector of Constabulary has published his annual report; (e) consider a further SPICe briefing on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 at a future meeting; and (f) note the response from the Scottish Government to its report on the proposed draft Public Services Reform (Prison Visiting Committees) (Scotland) Order 2014.
5. **Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee inquiry into the procedures for considering legislation in the Parliament (in private):** The Committee agreed a draft response.

The meeting closed at 12.52 pm.

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