



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

**11th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)**

**Tuesday 1 April 2014**

Present:

Christian Allard  
John Finnie  
Margaret Mitchell  
John Pentland

Roderick Campbell  
Christine Grahame (Convener)  
Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)  
Sandra White

Apologies were received from Alison McInnes.

The meeting opened at 10.02 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 3 in private.
2. **Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Jonathan Mitchell QC;

Tony Kelly, Chair, Justice Scotland;

Lloyd Austin, Convener, Governance Forum, Scottish Environment Link;

Eric McQueen, Chief Executive, Scottish Court Service;

Lindsay Montgomery, Chief Executive, Scottish Legal Aid Board;

Sheriff Principal Mhairi Stephen, Member, Scottish Civil Justice Council.

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

3. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed its approach to its Stage 2 consideration of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, including seeking written evidence from a range of stakeholders

on forthcoming Scottish Government amendments relating to ending the automatic early release of certain categories of prisoners.

The meeting closed at 12.37 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](mailto:irene.fleming@scottish.parliament.uk)