



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

13th Meeting, 2014 (Session 4)

Tuesday 29 April 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 11.00 am.

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 3 and 4 in private. The Committee also agreed to consider its draft Stage 1 report on the Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill in private at future meetings.
2. **Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Roseanna Cunningham, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Cameron Stewart, Bill Team Leader, and Nicholas Duffy, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, Scottish Government.

The Minister indicated that she is a non-practising member of the Faculty of Advocates. Roderick Campbell indicated that he is a member of the Faculty of Advocates.

3. **Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill - witness expenses (in private):** The Committee considered and agreed a witness expenses claim by Sheriff Principal James Taylor.
4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed to: (a) write to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice seeking an update on issues relating to the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill; (b) consider at a future meeting its approach to its consideration of proposals to end the automatic early

release of certain categories of prisoner; (c) undertake visits to the courts to inform its general scrutiny of the Courts Reform (Scotland) Bill; and (d) cancel its meeting on 27 May.

The meeting closed at 12.48 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