



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

26th Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)

Tuesday 22 September 2015

Present:

Christian Allard	Roderick Campbell
John Finnie	Christine Grahame (Convener)
Margaret McDougall	Alison McInnes
Margaret Mitchell	Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)
Michael Russell (Committee Substitute)	

Apologies were received from Gil Paterson.

The meeting opened at 10.01 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Michael Russell was invited to declare any relevant interests. Mr Russell declared no registrable interests, but said that he was co-author of a book with one of the petitioners on Petition PE1370 (item 4).

In relation to item 3 on the agenda, Roderick Campbell declared an interest as a member of the Faculty of Advocates

2. **Community Justice (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence, in round-table format, on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Alan Staff, Chief Executive, Apex Scotland;

Laura Mulcahy, Development Co-ordinator, Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum;

Professor Nancy Loucks, Chief Executive, Families Outside;

Pete White, National Co-ordinator, Positive Prison? Positive Futures;

Tom Halpin, Chief Executive, Safeguarding Communities - Reducing Offending (Sacro);

Louise Johnson, Legal Issues Worker, Scottish Women's Aid;

Emma Dore, Senior Policy Officer, Shelter Scotland;

Christine Scullion, Head of Development, The Robertson Trust;

Nicola Merrin, Policy Officer, Victim Support Scotland.

3. **Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 2).

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100 and 90.

Amendment 105 was disagreed to (by division: For 2, Against 7, Abstentions 0).

The following provisions were agreed to as amended: sections 86 and 87, and schedule 3.

The Committee ended consideration of the Bill for the day, amendment 90 having been disposed of.

4. **Public petitions:** The Committee considered the following petitions and agreed in relation to—

PE1280 by Dr Kenneth Faulds and Julie Love on fatal accident inquiries: to keep the petition open until the Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Bill has been passed by the Parliament;

PE1370 by Dr Jim Swire, Professor Robert Black QC, Robert Forrester, Father Patrick Keegans and Iain McKie on Justice for Megrahi: to keep the petition open, and to write to the Lord Advocate seeking clarification on the status of the independent Counsel referred to in prior correspondence.

In relation to PE1370, Christine Grahame declared an interest as a member of the Justice for Megrahi campaign.

The meeting closed at 12.09 pm.

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