



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

#### 33rd Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)

Tuesday 24 November 2015

Present:

Christian Allard	Gavin Brown (Committee Substitute)
John Finnie	Christine Grahame (Convener)
Margaret McDougall	Alison McInnes
Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)	Gil Paterson

Apologies were received from Roderick Campbell and Margaret Mitchell.

The meeting opened at 10.46 am.

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 3 and 4 in private.
2. **Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Nick Smithers, National Development Officer, Abused Men in Scotland;

Sandy Brindley, National Co-ordinator, Rape Crisis Scotland;

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

Nicola Merrin, Policy Officer, Victim Support Scotland;

Tam Baillie, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland;

Eleanor Deeming, Legal Officer, Scottish Human Rights Commission.

3. **Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee further considered its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and agreed to take no further oral evidence other than from those already invited to future meetings.

4. **Criminal Verdicts (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and agreed to (a) issue a call for written evidence; and (b) take evidence from the Scottish Government and from Michael McMahon, member in charge of the Bill, early in the New Year.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm.

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