



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

35th Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)

Tuesday 8 December 2015

Present:

Christian Allard	Gavin Brown (Committee Substitute) (item 2)
Roderick Campbell	John Finnie
Christine Grahame (Convener)	Margaret McDougall
Alison McInnes	Margaret Mitchell
Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)	Gil Paterson

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 9 in private.
2. **Apologies (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2.

The following amendments were agreed to (without division): 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 1 and 11.

Amendment 7 was not moved.

The following provisions were agreed to without amendment: sections 1, 4 and 6 and the Long Title.

The following provisions were agreed to as amended: sections 2, 3 and 5.

The Committee completed Stage 2 consideration of the Bill.

Roderick Campbell declared an interest as a member of the Faculty of Advocates.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence on the Victims' Rights (Scotland) Regulations 2015 [draft] from—

Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Neil Robertson, EU Criminal Justice Team, Graham Ackerman, Victims and Witnesses Team, and Craig McGuffie, Directorate for Legal Services, Scottish Government.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** Paul Wheelhouse (Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs) moved—

S4M-14801—That the Justice Committee recommends that the Victims' Rights (Scotland) Regulations 2015 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

5. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence on the Justice of the Peace Courts (Special Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015 [draft] from—

Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Scottish Government.

6. **Subordinate legislation:** Paul Wheelhouse (Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs) moved—

S4M-14802—That the Justice Committee recommends that the Justice of the Peace Courts (Special Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

7. **Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Rt Hon Lord Carloway, Lord Justice Clerk;

Sheriff Gordon Liddle, Vice President, Sheriffs' Association.

8. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instruments—

Sheriff Appeal Court Fees Order 2015 (SSI 2015/379);

Civil Legal Aid (Scotland) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2015 (SSI 2015/380);

Scottish Tribunals (Eligibility for Appointment) Regulations 2015 (SSI 2015/381);

Act of Sederunt (Fees of Solicitors in the Sheriff Appeal Court) 2015 (SSI 2015/387).

The Committee agreed to make no recommendations in relation to the instruments.

In relation to SSI 2015/380, Roderick Campbell declared an interest as a member of the Faculty of Advocates.

9. **Interception of communications by Police Scotland (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the 15 December evidence session on matters arising from the Interception of Communications Commissioner's statement of 25 November 2015.

The meeting closed at 12.53 pm.

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