



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2016 (Session 4)

Tuesday 2 February 2016

Present:

Christian Allard

John Finnie

Margaret McDougall

Margaret Mitchell

Gil Paterson

Roderick Campbell

Christine Grahame (Convener)

Alison McInnes

Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Agricultural crime:** The Committee took evidence from—

Lesley Thomson QC, Solicitor General for Scotland;

Catriona Dalrymple, Head of Policy Division, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.
3. **EU priorities:** The Committee considered correspondence in relation to its EU priorities for 2015-16 and agreed to write to the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs seeking further information on a number of issues.
4. **Criminal Verdicts (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered a draft Stage 1 report. Various changes were agreed to and the Committee agreed its report to the Parliament.
5. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed to (a) invite the Chief Constable of Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority to give evidence on internal communications at Police Scotland and on Police Scotland's policies and procedures in relation to the protection of staff who report wrongdoing or malpractice within the organisation; and (b) write

to HM Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland asking when he is likely to publish his report on the Counter Corruption Unit Assurance Review.

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm.

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