



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

2nd Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Tuesday 14 January 2020

Present:

John Finnie  
James Kelly  
Fulton MacGregor  
Liam McArthur  
Shona Robison

Jenny Gilruth  
Liam Kerr  
Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)  
Margaret Mitchell (Convener)

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Children (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

June Loudoun, Grandparents Apart UK;

Ian Maxwell, National Manager, Shared Parenting Scotland;

Dr Sue Whitcombe, Chartered Psychologist;

Stuart Valentine, Chief Executive, Relationships Scotland;

Isobel Bilsland, Manager, Relationships Scotland Borders.

Liam McArthur indicated that his wife is a mediator with Relationships Scotland.

3. **Children (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

4. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and agreed to the issuing of a call for views, with a closing date of 13 March. The Committee also agreed to hear formally and in public from the Scottish Government Bill Team as the first evidence session on the Bill, that any witness expenses claims be considered by the clerks and processed in line with the Parliament's witness expenses scheme and public engagement policies and that future consideration of decisions on the choice of witnesses, on the consideration of oral evidence heard and draft reports be taken in private.
5. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme.

The meeting closed at 1.01 pm.

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