



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

15th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Tuesday 16 June 2020

Present:

Dr Alasdair Allan
James Kelly
Fulton MacGregor
Liam McArthur

John Finnie
Liam Kerr
Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)
Margaret Mitchell (Convener)

Apologies were received from Shona Robison.

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

1. **Re-opening the courts in Scotland and the prosecution of crime during the Covid-19 pandemic:** The Committee took evidence from—

Rt Hon James Wolffe QC, Lord Advocate, and David Harvie, Crown Agent and Chief Executive, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.
2. **Prisons, Young Offenders Institutions and Covid-19:** The Committee considered correspondence from the Scottish Human Rights Commission and the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and the Scottish Prison Service.
3. **Covid-19 and the impact on criminal justice social work and the criminal justice voluntary sector:** The Committee considered correspondence from Social Work Scotland and the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.
4. **Re-opening the courts in Scotland and the prosecution of crime during the Covid-19 pandemic (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting. The Committee agreed to write to the Lord Advocate.

The meeting closed at 11.02 am.

J/S5/20/15/M

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