



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

18th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Tuesday 25 August 2020

Present:

John Finnie  
Liam Kerr  
Fulton MacGregor  
Liam McArthur  
Adam Tomkins (Convener)

James Kelly  
Bill Kidd (Committee Substitute)  
Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)  
Shona Robison

Apologies were received from Dr Alasdair Allan.

The meeting opened at 10.30 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Adam Tomkins indicated that he is an employee of the University of Glasgow and holds an academic position in its School of Law.
2. **Choice of Convener:** The Committee chose Adam Tomkins as its new Convener.
3. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—
  - Andrew Tickell, Trustee, Scottish PEN;
  - Nick McGowan-Lowe, Organiser, Scottish Office, National Union of Journalists;
  - John McLellan, Director, Scottish Newspaper Society;
  - Shelley Jofre, Investigations Editor, and Luke McCullough, Senior Policy Adviser, BBC Scotland.
4. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.51 pm.

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