



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

20th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Tuesday 8 September 2020

Present:

Annabelle Ewing
James Kelly
Fulton MacGregor
Liam McArthur
Adam Tomkins (Convener)

John Finnie
Liam Kerr
Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)
Shona Robison

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Annabelle Ewing indicated she is a member of the Law Society of Scotland and that she holds a current practising certificate but is not currently practising.
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5 in private.
3. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Dr Andrew Scott, Associate Professor of Law, London School of Economics;

Gavin Sutter, Senior Lecturer in Media Law, Queen Mary University of London;

Mark Scodie, Senior Corporate Counsel, TripAdvisor Limited;

Ally Tibbitt, Journalist, Director and co-founder, The Ferret.

4. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

5. **Re-opening the courts (in private):** The Committee considered a draft report on its scrutiny of the plans for the re-opening courts and tribunals in Scotland. Various amendments were agreed to and the Committee agreed to consider a revised draft, in private, at a future meeting

The meeting closed at 12.38 pm.

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