



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**8th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)**

**Tuesday 7 March 2017**

Present:

Mairi Evans	Mary Fee
John Finnie	Fulton MacGregor
Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)	Ben Macpherson
Margaret Mitchell (Convener)	Douglas Ross
Stewart Stevenson	

Apologies were received from Liam McArthur and Oliver Mundell.

The meeting opened at 9.32 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5 in private.
2. **Justice Sub-Committee on Policing:** The Committee noted a report back from the Convener of the Sub-Committee on its meeting held on 23 February 2017.
3. **Limitation (Childhood Abuse) (Scotland) Bill - witness expenses:** The Committee agreed to delegate to the Convener responsibility for arranging for the SPCB to pay, under Rule 12.4.3, any expenses of witnesses on the Bill.
4. **Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

Charlotte Vitty, Interim Chief Executive, British Transport Police Authority;

Chief Constable Paul Crowther, British Transport Police UK;

Assistant Chief Constable Bernard Higgins, Operations and Justice, Police Scotland;

John Foley, Chief Executive, Scottish Police Authority.

Stewart Stevenson declared that a close family member is a serving police officer.

5. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed (a) to request further information from the Scottish Government, Police Scotland and local authorities on specific areas of work highlighted during its recent round-table evidence session on demand-led policing, and to keep the Health and Sport Committee informed about this work; (b) to ask SPICe to provide a briefing on civil actions for rape; and (c) to seek approval from the Conveners Group for a committee debate in the Chamber on the inquiry into the role and purpose of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.
6. **Inquiry into the role and purpose of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (in private):** The Committee considered a draft report. Various changes were agreed to and the Committee agreed to continue its consideration at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.01 pm.

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