



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

25th Meeting, 2017 (Session 5)

Tuesday 5 September 2017

Present:

Maurice Corry

John Finnie

Liam Kerr

Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)

Liam McArthur

Stewart Stevenson

Mary Fee

Mairi Gougeon

Fulton MacGregor

Ben Macpherson

Margaret Mitchell (Convener)

The meeting opened at 10.02 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Maurice Corry and Liam Kerr were invited to declare any relevant interests. Mr Corry and Mr Kerr had no such interests to declare.
2. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 5, 6 and 7 in private. The Committee also agreed that consideration of a draft Stage 1 report on the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill should be taken in private at future meetings.
3. **Public petitions:** The Committee considered the following petitions, and agreed in relation to—

PE1370 by Dr Jim Swire, Professor Robert Black QC, Robert Forrester, Father Patrick Keegans and Iain McKie on Justice for Megrahi: to keep the petition open pending the completion of Police Scotland's Operation Sandwood;

PE1501 by Stuart Graham on public inquiries into self-inflicted and accidental deaths following suspicious death investigations; and PE1567 by Donna O'Halloran on investigating unascertained deaths, suicides and fatal accidents in Scotland: to close the petitions on the basis that the Scottish Government and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service had responded to the issues raised by the petitioners;

PE1510 by Jody Curtis on the closure of police, fire and non-emergency service centres north of Dundee; and PE1511 by Laura Ross on the decision made by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to close Inverness control room: to write to the Scottish Government and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service requesting further information in relation to the issues raised by the petitioners and to keep the petitions open.

4. **Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—  
  
Hamish Goodall, Civil Law and Legal System Division, and Greig Walker, Solicitor, Directorate for Legal Services, Scottish Government.
5. **Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered the written evidence received and potential witnesses for the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1. The Committee agreed a number of witnesses, and agreed to further consider potential witnesses in private at future meetings.
6. **Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered the written evidence received and potential witnesses for the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1. The Committee agreed a number of witnesses, and agreed to further consider potential witnesses in private a future meetings.
7. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed to hold a round-table evidence session on diversion from prosecution at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.31 pm.

Peter McGrath  
Clerk to the Justice Committee  
Room T2.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
Tel: 0131 348 5195  
Email: peter.mcgrath@parliament.scot