



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

20th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Tuesday 26 June 2018

Present:

George Adam	John Finnie
Jenny Gilruth	Mairi Gougeon
Daniel Johnson	Liam Kerr
Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)	Ben Macpherson
Liam McArthur	Margaret Mitchell (Convener)

Apologies were received from Maurice Corry.

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 6 in private.
2. **Professional legal education:** The Committee took evidence, in round-table format, from—

Tim Haddow, Advocate, Former Co-ordinator, Campaign for Fair Access to the Legal Profession;

Lord Eassie, Convenor, Joint Standing Committee for Legal Education in Scotland;

Rob Marrs, Head of Education, Law Society of Scotland;

Julie Brannan, Director of Education and Training, Solicitors Regulation Authority;

Elizabeth Comerford, Director of Diploma in Professional Legal Practice, University of Dundee.

Daniel Johnson declared an interest as his wife is a practising solicitor, having qualified in England and Scotland. Liam Kerr declared interests as a practising

solicitor and as a member of the Law Society of England and Wales and of the Law Society of Scotland. Ben Macpherson declared interests as a registered solicitor and as a former member of the campaign for fair access to the legal profession, working alongside Tim Haddow. Liam McArthur declared an interest as the parent of a son expecting to begin studying law at the University of Dundee.

3. **Professional legal education - 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 in the evidence session on professional legal education.
4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instrument—

Act of Sederunt (Fees of Solicitors in the Court of Session, Sheriff Appeal Court and Sheriff Court) (Amendment) 2018 (SSI 2018/186).

The Committee agreed to write to the Lord President and to the Minister for Parliamentary Business requesting that when any future instruments were laid they be accompanied by notes explaining in an accessible manner the purpose of each instrument. The Committee agreed to make no recommendation in relation to the instrument.

5. **Justice Sub-Committee on Policing:** The Committee noted a report back from the Convener of the Sub-Committee on the meeting held on 21 June 2018.
6. **Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and agreed to (a) issue a call for written evidence on the Bill; and (b) further consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at a future meeting.
7. **Management of Offenders (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee further considered a draft Stage 1 report and agreed to task the Convener with meeting the Minister for Parliamentary Business with a view to seeking approval from the Parliament to extend the deadline for completion of its Stage 1 consideration of the Bill.

The meeting closed at 12.45 pm.

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