JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

31st Meeting, 2012 (Session 4)

Tuesday 6 November 2012

Present:

Roderick Campbell  John Finnie
Christine Grahame (Convener)  Colin Keir
Jenny Marra (Deputy Convener)  Alison McInnes
Graeme Pearson  Sandra White

Apologies were received from David McLetchie.

The meeting opened at 10.03 am.

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 6 and 8 in private. The Committee agreed to take item 7 in private (by division: For 6, Against 2, Abstentions 0).

2. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence on the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (Relevant Premises) Regulations 2012 [draft] from—

   Kenny MacAskill, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Scottish Government.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** Kenny MacAskill (Cabinet Secretary for Justice) moved—

   S4M-4635—That the Justice Committee recommends that the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (Relevant Premises) Regulations 2012 [draft] be approved.

   The motion was agreed to.

4. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2013-14:** The Committee took evidence on the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2013-14 from—
5. **Commission on Women Offenders:** The Committee took evidence from—

Kenny MacAskill, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, and Joe Griffin, Deputy Director, Community Justice, Scottish Government;

Colin McConnell, Chief Executive, Scottish Prison Service.


7. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed: (a) in relation to petition PE1370 on an independent inquiry into the Megrahi conviction, to consider the petition again once the petitioners have had an opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's correspondence; (b) in relation to petition PE1449 on a Scottish Administrative Justice Council, to consider the petition again once a further update from the Scottish Government has been received; (c) to consider at a future meeting when to take evidence from the new chief executive of the Scottish Prison Service on governance issues; (d) to take evidence on 20 November on (i) the transfer of prison healthcare to the NHS; and (ii) HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland's Annual Report 2011-12; (e) to take evidence on 11 December on the connection between school exclusion and offending; (f) in relation to the role of the media in criminal trials, (i) to await the conclusion of the Lord President's review of the use of cameras in court; and (ii) to ask SPICe to undertake research into how social media impacts on witnesses and jurors in other jurisdictions; (g) to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to give evidence on an annual basis following the publication of each annual report on progress being made in implementing the recommendations made in the Commission on Women Offenders report; (h) to invite the Cabinet Secretary to respond directly to comments made by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists following the evidence session on the speech, language and communication needs of children and young offenders held on 22 May; (i) to note the Cabinet Secretary's update on progress in relation to contracts for interpreting and translation services for the new Police Service of Scotland and publish it on the Committee's web page; (j) to seek the views of the Scottish Government, the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Police Federation and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on research produced by the Scottish Campaign against Irresponsible Driving and the University of Dundee on fatal road accidents; (k) to defer consideration of post-legislative scrutiny of the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007 until the Cabinet Secretary's detailed consideration of any proposals for legislative change to be developed by the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission is available; (l) to invite Audit Scotland to give evidence at a future meeting on its forthcoming report on reducing reoffending; and (m) to take evidence on 27 November from HM Chief
Inspector of Constabulary, the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland and the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority on police reform.

8. **Statute Law (Repeals) Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (in private):** The Committee agreed its report on the legislative consent memorandum lodged by Kenny MacAskill (LCM(S4) 16.1).

The meeting closed at 1.01 pm.

Irene Fleming
Clerk to the Justice Committee
Room T2.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5212
Email: irene.fleming@scottish.parliament.uk