JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

20th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)

Tuesday 18 June 2013

Present:

Roderick Campbell  John Finnie
Christine Grahame (Convener)  Colin Keir
John Lamont (Committee Substitute)  Jenny Marra (Deputy Convener)
Graeme Pearson  Sandra White

Apologies were received from Alison McInnes and David McLetchie.

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 6 and 7 in private.

2. **Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 - implementation of the fire provisions:** The Committee took evidence from—

   John Duffy, Scottish Secretary, Fire Brigades Union;

   Sarah Duncan, Regional Organiser, UNISON;

   Nick Croft, Corporate Policy and Strategy Manager, City of Edinburgh Council;

   Pat Watters, Chair, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board;

   Alasdair Hay, Chief Officer, and Dave Boyle, Assistant Chief Officer, Director of Service Delivery West, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

3. **Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012:** The Committee considered and noted correspondence from the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, the Lord Advocate, the Chief Constable and the Scottish Police Authority on the operation of the
Act. The Committee agreed to write to the Chief Constable seeking further information on issues raised during discussion.

4. **Inquiry into purposeful activity in prisons:** The Committee considered the joint response from the Scottish Government and the Scottish Prison Service to the Committee's report and agreed to continue to monitor the issue.

5. **Fatal road collisions:** The Committee agreed to consider what next steps to take following the passage of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Bill.

6. **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (in private):** The Committee considered its approach to the legislative consent memorandum lodged by Kenny MacAskill (LCM(S4)22.1) and agreed to: (a) issue a targeted call for written evidence; (b) consider whether to invite witnesses to give evidence in light of the written evidence received; and (c) invite the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to give evidence in September.

7. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed: (a) to await further updates from the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs in respect of concerns raised by the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission regarding the operation of certain aspects of the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007; (b) the terms of its responses to requests for the Committee to conduct inquiries into the governance of the judiciary and the operation of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002; (c) to note the response from the Equal Opportunities Committee regarding the request for a possible joint review of the Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005 and to consider the request further as part of its work programme in 2014; and (d) to consider the National Action Plan for Human Rights in Scotland following its publication.

The meeting closed at 12.47 pm.

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