



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

7th Meeting, 2016 (Session 4)

Tuesday 23 February 2016

Present:

Christian Allard
John Finnie
Margaret Mitchell
Gil Paterson

Roderick Campbell
Christine Grahame (Convener)
Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)

Apologies were received from Margaret McDougall and Alison McInnes.

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 5 and 6 in private.
2. **Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006:** The Committee took evidence from—

Professor Jane Mair, School of Law, University of Glasgow;

Professor Kenneth Norrie, Law School, University of Strathclyde.

Roderick Campbell declared an interest as a member of the Faculty of Advocates.
3. **Public petitions:** The Committee considered the following petitions and agreed in relation to—

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 keep the petitions open and to recommend that a future justice committee gives further consideration to them;

PE1370 by Dr Jim Swire, Professor Robert Black QC, Robert Forrester, Father Patrick Keegans and Iain McKie on justice for Megrahi: to write to

the Lord Advocate expressing disappointment at his late reply to the Committee, and to consider the petition further at a future meeting;

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 keep the petitions open and to recommend that a future justice committee gives further consideration to them.

In relation to PE1370 on justice for Megrahi, Christine Grahame declared an interest as a member of the Justice for Megrahi campaign.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instruments—

Scottish Sentencing Council (Submission of Business Plan) Order 2016 (SSI 2016/55);

Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Prescription of Ranks and Positions) (Scotland) Order 2016 (SSI 2016/56).

The Committee agreed to make no recommendations in relation to the instruments.

5. **Armed Forces Bill (UK Parliament legislation) (in private):** The Committee considered a revised draft report on the legislative consent memorandum on the Armed Forces Bill (LCM(S4) 39.1) and agreed its report to the Parliament.
6. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed witnesses for a round-table evidence session on the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 on 8 March 2016.

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm.

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