



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

11th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Tuesday 27 March 2018

Present:

George Adam	Maurice Corry
John Finnie	Mairi Gougeon
Daniel Johnson	Liam Kerr
Fulton MacGregor	Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)
Ben Macpherson	Liam McArthur
Margaret Mitchell (Convener)	

Also present: Christine Grahame (item 3).

The meeting opened at 10.02 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.
2. **Remand:** The Committee took evidence from—

Alan Staff, Chief Executive, Apex Scotland;

Rhona Hunter, Chief Executive, Circle Scotland;

Fiona Mackinnon, Partnership Manager, Shine;

Kathryn Baker, Chief Executive, Tayside Council on Alcohol;

Kirstin Abercrombie, Service Manager, Glasgow Women's Supported Bail Service, Turning Point Scotland.

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 and to (i) write to Police Scotland and the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission requesting information on issues raised during discussion of the petition; and (ii) ask the Scottish Parliament Information Centre to provide a briefing on the petition.

PE1511 by Laura Ross on the decision made by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to close Inverness control room: to close the petition on the basis that the Committee agreed to keep the issues it raised under review in relation to its future scrutiny of police and fire and rescue services.

PE1633 by Bill Alexander on private criminal prosecution in Scotland: to keep the petition open and to (i) write to the Scottish Government seeking its response to the written evidence received on the petition; and (ii) seek advice on the Scottish Parliament's legal competence in relation to the petition.

In relation to petition PE1370, Christine Grahame declared an interest as a member of the Justice for Megrahi campaign. In relation to petition PE1633, Rona Mackay indicated that the petitioner is a constituent.

4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed (a) to take evidence, on 24 April 2018, from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on the use of remand in Scotland; (b) to invite the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and the Lord Advocate to give evidence on Brexit at a future meeting; (c) to write to the Scottish Government seeking its response to issues raised during earlier evidence sessions on alternative dispute resolution; and (d) to hold evidence sessions, at future meetings, on (i) defamation; (ii) civil actions for rape and other serious sexual offences; (iii) the integration of British Transport Police into Police Scotland; and (iv) professional legal education.

The meeting closed at 12.43 pm.

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