



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)

Tuesday 3 February 2015

Present:

Christian Allard	Jayne Baxter
Roderick Campbell	John Finnie
Christine Grahame (Convener)	Alison McInnes
Margaret Mitchell	Gil Paterson

Apologies were received from Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener).

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 4 and 5 in private.
2. **Public petitions:** The Committee considered the following petitions and agreed in relation to—

PE1280 by Dr Kenneth Faulds and Julie Love on fatal accident inquiries: to note correspondence from the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs restating the Scottish Government's commitment to introduce a Bill on fatal accident inquiries within the current parliamentary session and to keep the petition open;

PE1370 by Dr Jim Swire, Professor Robert Black QC, Robert Forrester, Father Patrick Keegans and Iain McKie on Justice for Megrahi: to note recent correspondence from Justice for Megrahi and latest developments with the case, and to keep the petition open;

PE1427 by Robert Kirkwood on behalf of Leith Links Residents' Association on multi-party actions: to keep the petition open while awaiting the Scottish Government's proposals arising from its consultation on the Taylor Review;

PE1479 by Andrew Muir on complaints about solicitors: to keep the petition open until the new time bar provisions come into effect in July 2015;

PE1501 by Stuart Graham on public inquiries into self-inflicted and accidental deaths following suspicious death investigations: to invite the petitioner to respond to recent correspondence from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service regarding investigations into deaths classified as self-inflicted and to keep the petition open;

PE1510 by Jody Curtis on the closure of police, fire and non-emergency service centres north of Dundee: to keep the petition open while awaiting the forthcoming Audit Scotland report on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;

PE1511 by Laura Ross on the decision made by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to close Inverness control room: to keep the petition open while awaiting the forthcoming Audit Scotland report on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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

Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 (Prescribed Relatives) Order 2014 (SSI 2014/360);

Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 (SSI 2015/1).

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

4. **EU engagement (in private):** The Committee agreed its report to the European and External Relations Committee on the EU engagement work it undertook during 2014. The Committee also agreed, in relation to its EU priorities for 2015-16, to write to the Scottish Government seeking an update on developments with (a) E-Justice in the context of its Digital Strategy for Justice in Scotland; (b) the proposed criminal justice proposals being followed by the Scottish Government; (c) the European Agenda on Migration; and (d) the Justice and Home Affairs agenda 2015-20.
5. **Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in relation to the evidence received on the Bill. In light of this correspondence, the Committee agreed to hold a further evidence session, in round-table format, at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.36 am.

J/S4/15/5/M

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