



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**13th Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)**

**Tuesday 28 April 2015**

Present:

Christian Allard

John Finnie

Alison McInnes

Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)

Roderick Campbell

Christine Grahame (Convener)

Margaret Mitchell

Gil Paterson

Apologies were received from Jayne Baxter.

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 3 in private.

2. **Fire and rescue service reform:** The Committee took evidence from—

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

Alasdair Hay, Chief Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;

Steven Torrie, HM Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service;

Stephen Thomson, Scottish Secretary, Fire Brigades Union Scotland.

Gil Paterson declared an interest as a part-owner of a motor-factoring business.

3. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed: (a) to take evidence on Scottish Government amendments to the Prisoners (Control of Release) (Scotland) Bill prior to disposing of them at Stage 2; (b) in relation to its inquiry into agricultural crime, to write to Police Scotland seeking an update on its approach to crime in rural areas and to ask the Solicitor General when her forthcoming review will report; and (c) to write

again to the Chief Surveillance Commissioner seeking further information in relation to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000.

The meeting closed at 11.54 am.

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