



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**36th Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)**

**Tuesday 15 December 2015**

Present:

Christian Allard

John Finnie

Margaret McDougall

Margaret Mitchell

Gil Paterson

Roderick Campbell

Christine Grahame (Convener)

Alison McInnes

Elaine Murray (Deputy Convener)

Also present: Graeme Pearson (item 2).

The meeting opened at 9.46 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.
2. **Interception of communications by Police Scotland** The Committee took evidence from—

Deputy Chief Constable Neil Richardson, Designated Deputy for the Chief Constable, Police Scotland;

John Foley, Chief Executive, Scottish Police Authority;

Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Scottish Government.

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

Litigants in Person (Costs and Expenses) (Sheriff Appeal Court) Order 2015 (SSI 2015/398).

The Committee agreed to make no recommendation in relation to the instrument.

4. **Work programme (in private):** The Committee considered its work programme and agreed to (a) write to Police Scotland seeking further information on the interception of communications by Police Scotland and to publish a letter to the Convener, dated 1 December, from Amer Anwar, Solicitors, in relation to that matter; (b) invite Chief Superintendent Clark Cuzen, Detective Superintendent David Donaldson, Detective Superintendent Brenda Smith and Detective Inspector Joanne Grant to give evidence on the interception of communications by Police Scotland; (c) write to the Fire Brigades Union seeking its comments on the legislative consent memorandum on the UK Armed Forces Bill; (d) invite Professor Alan Miller, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC) to give evidence on 26 January 2016 on the work of the SHRC, including its Year Two Progress Report on Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights; and (e) take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Bill on 5 January 2016.

The meeting closed at 12.46 pm.

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