1. **Declaration of interests:** Annabelle Ewing indicated she is a member of the Law Society of Scotland and that she holds a current practising certificate but is not currently practising.

2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 7 in private.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence on the Advice and Assistance (Assistance by Way of Representation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 [draft] from—

   Ash Denham, Minister for Community Safety, Scottish Government.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** Ash Denham (Minister for Community Safety) moved—

   S5M-22554—That the Justice Committee recommends that the Advice and Assistance (Assistance by Way of Representation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.
The motion was agreed to.

5. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill**: The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

   Duncan Hamilton, Advocate, Faculty of Advocates;
   
   John Paul Sheridan, Law Society of Scotland;
   
   Dr Stephen Bogle, and Dr Bobby Lindsay, University of Glasgow.

6. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (in private)**: The Committee reviewed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

7. **Work programme (in private)**: The Committee considered its work programme.

The meeting closed at 12.50 pm.

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