



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

19th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Tuesday 1 September 2020

Present:

John Finnie	James Kelly
Liam Kerr	Fulton MacGregor
Rona Mackay (Deputy Convener)	Liam McArthur
Shona Robison	Adam Tomkins (Convener)

Also present: Annabelle Ewing

Apologies were received from Dr Alasdair Allan.

The meeting opened at 10.00 am.

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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