The Committee will meet at 9.00 am in the James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4).

1. **Children (Scotland) Bill**: The Committee will take evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

   The Honourable Lady Wise;

   Sheriff Tait.

2. **Justice Sub-Committee on Policing**: The Committee will consider a report back from the Sub-Committee meetings held on 30 January and 6 February 2020.
The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda item 1**

Paper by the Clerk

PRIVATE PAPER

**Agenda item 2**

Paper by the Clerk
Introduction

1. The Children (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 2 September 2019. It is a Scottish Government Bill. The Bill mainly makes changes to how disputes in relation to children are settled when families break down.

2. According to the Scottish Government, the policy aims of the Bill are to:
   - ensure the views of the child are heard in contact and residence cases;
   - further protect victims of domestic abuse and their children;
   - ensure the bests interests of the child are at the centre of contact and residence cases and Children’s Hearings; and

3. More information on the Bill can be found here: https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112632.aspx


5. SPICe have also prepared a briefing looking at how other legal systems deal with parenting disputes, which can be found here: https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefings/Report/2019/11/20/Resolving-parenting-disputes--Scotland-compared-to-other-countries-1

Justice Committee scrutiny

6. The Bill was referred to the Justice Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny. The Committee launched a call for evidence on 20 September 2019, with a closing date of 15 November 2019. 74 responses were received and are available here: https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/113648.aspx

7. Any supplementary responses are also published on that webpage.

8. As part of its scrutiny of the Bill, the Committee commissioned an external academic, Dr Lesley-Anne Barnes Macfarlane of Edinburgh Napier University, to review both the current law and the proposed reforms in the Bill from a human rights perspective. Her report can be found here:
9. At its meeting on 26 November 2019, the Committee took evidence from Scottish Government officials assisting Ministers in taking the Bill through Parliament (“the Bill team”).

10. At its meeting on 17 December 2019, the Committee held a roundtable evidence session with Dr Fiona Morrison, University of Stirling, Professor Kay Tisdall, University of Edinburgh, and representatives from the Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland and Scottish Women’s Aid. These individuals and organisations have been involved in recent research projects which have included hearing directly from children and young people on issues relating to the Bill. The purpose of the roundtable session was to explore the findings from these projects on children and young people’s experiences of contact disputes, their views on how the current system could be improved, and whether other work needs to be done to hear children’s views on these issues.

11. The Committee then took evidence on the Bill from Professor Elaine Sutherland, University of Stirling, and Dr Richard Whitecross, Edinburgh Napier University.

12. At its meeting on 7 January 2020, the Committee heard from representatives of the Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland, Children 1st, NSPCC Scotland, ASSIST, and Scottish Women’s Aid.

13. At its meeting on 14 January 2020, the Committee heard from Dr Sue Whitcombe, Chartered Psychologist, and representatives of Grandparents Apart UK, Shared Parenting Scotland, and Relationships Scotland.


15. At its meeting on 28 January 2020, the Committee heard from Susan Edington, Edingtons WS; Nadine Martin, Harper Macleod LLP; and representatives of Clan Childlaw, the Faculty of Advocates, and the Family Law Association.

16. On 4 February 2020, the Committee met informally with YELLO!, the young expert group for the Improving Justice in Child Contact project. A note of that meeting can be found here.

17. At its meeting on 20 February 2020, the Committee will take evidence from The Hon. Lady Wise and Sheriff Tait.

18. At its meeting on 25 February 2020, the Committee will take closing evidence on the Bill from the Minister for Community Safety.
Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

7th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5), Thursday 20 February 2020

Note by the Clerk

Feedback paper

Introduction

1. On 30 January and 6 February 2020, the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing considered a draft report on its inquiry into the use of facial recognition technology by the police service in Scotland. The Sub-Committee agreed its report and it was published on 11 February.

2. At its next meeting, which is scheduled for the afternoon of 20 February, the Sub-Committee will hear from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on the draft 2020/21 budget.

3. The evidence session will be an opportunity for the Sub-Committee to consider the draft 2020/21 police budget, and the Scottish Government’s response to the Sub-Committee’s recent Report on capital resources for Police Scotland in the Scottish Government’s 2020-21 budget.

4. The Sub-Committee agreed to hold an evidence session on the policing of the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at a future meeting.

5. The Sub-Committee also agreed to consider issues raised by the Auditor General for Scotland in the Section 22 report by Audit Scotland on the 2018/19 audit of the Scottish Police Authority, at a future meeting.

Justice Sub-Committee clerks

17 February 2020