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 5 in private.

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

   Dr Andrew Scott, Associate Professor of Law, London School of Economics;

   Gavin Sutter, Senior Lecturer in Media Law, Queen Mary University of London;

   Mark Scodie, Senior Corporate Counsel, TripAdvisor Limited;

   Ally Tibbitt, Journalist, Director and co-founder, The Ferret.

4. **Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee reviewed the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
5. **Re-opening the courts (in private):** The Committee considered a draft report on its scrutiny of the plans for the re-opening courts and tribunals in Scotland. Various amendments were agreed to and the Committee agreed to consider a revised draft, in private, at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.38 pm.

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