

Criminal Justice Committee

9th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday 3 November 2021

Pre-budget scrutiny

Note by the clerk

Introduction

1. In the previous session, the Scottish Parliament agreed a new process for budget scrutiny based on the recommendations of the [Budget Process Review Group](#).
2. Part of this process is for each committee to conduct pre-budget scrutiny in advance of the publication by the Scottish Government of its spending proposals for the next financial year. Each committee takes evidence in the relevant spending area (such as justice) and provides a short report to the relevant Cabinet Secretary, setting out its views on spending priorities.
3. This year, the Criminal Justice Committee issued a [call for views](#) on 16 September. The Committee wanted to hear views from across all the different parts of the criminal justice sector. That is our prisons and courts, policing and fire and rescue service, criminal justice social work, the support of victims etc.
4. In addition to the written evidence received, the Committee agreed to take more detailed oral evidence from the following:
 - 6 October – Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority, followed by the Scottish Legal Aid Board
 - 3 November – Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service followed by the Scottish Prisons Service
 - 10 November – the Cabinet Secretary for Justice
5. The responses to date (37 in total) from other organisations and individuals are available [online](#). The organisations that have made a submission are:
 - Families Outside
 - Association of Scottish Police Superintendents
 - Apex Scotland
 - PCS, COPFS Branch
 - Scottish Justices Association
 - Victim Support Scotland

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Police Scotland/SPA
- HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland
- Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum
- Scottish Police Federation
- Faculty of Advocates
- Howard League Scotland
- The Wise Group
- McGreevy & Co., Solicitors, Glasgow
- Hughes Dowdall
- Social Work Scotland
- FDA Union
- HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland
- Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
- ASSIST

6. The Committee thanks all of those who have taken the time to respond to our call for views.

Today's witnesses

7. The Committee will take evidence today from:

- Dorothy Bain QC, Lord Advocate and David Harvie, Crown Agent, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service;

and then from—

- Teresa Medhurst, Interim Chief Executive and Gerry O'Donnell, Interim Director of Finance, Scottish Prison Service.

8. Paper 2 contains copies of the written submissions from the above witnesses.

**Clerks to the Committee
October 2021**