

ITEM 3.1: BUSINESS PLAN 2015-2018

Purpose

1. To provide members with:
 - a) a further draft of the business plan [**Paper 3.1A**] for agreement,
 - b) a summary of discussions with stakeholders to date [**Paper 3.1B**]; and
 - c) a suggested communications timeline for the plan's publication [**Paper 3.1C**].

Discussion

2. The business plan for the 3 year period from establishment in October 2015 must be submitted to the Scottish Ministers by 26 September 2016.
3. Statutory consultation is now complete and Meetings have been held with a variety of stakeholders over the summer and a summary of discussions with stakeholders is provided at **Paper 3.1B**. Engagement will continue up to and after the plan's launch, as noted in that paper.
4. A foreword is now included (pp.1-2) and some amendments to the draft considered at the June meeting have been made following statutory consultation and discussions with stakeholders (all changes are indicated by **highlighted** text and are at pp. 11, 12 (membership), 28, 30 (guidelines), 32 (research and information) and 35-38 (workplan table)). An explanation of the amendments is provided alongside the note of consultee and stakeholder discussions in **Paper 3.1B**.
5. Minor drafting amendments will be made to the text – primarily for formatting and insertion of publication information once set. It is not proposed that any substantive changes should be made other than any which may be agreed at the meeting and for the sake of accuracy at the time of submission (e.g. if an announcement is made in relation to plans around the presumption against short term sentences).
6. A full communications plan including briefing will be provided to members after the communications workshop and media training have taken place and in advance of the business plan's launch. However, a suggested timeline is provided at **Paper 3.1C**.

Publication arrangements

7. After submission, Ministers are required to lay the plan before Parliament and the Council “must, as soon as practicable after a business plan has been laid before the Parliament, publish it in such manner as it considers appropriate.”¹ The Secretariat will identify a suitable date for publication in discussion with the Scottish Government, subject to the Chair’s final approval.

8. While the Council endeavours to be as paperless as possible, it is suggested that it would be useful to publish a limited run of hard copy versions of the business plan and the annual report for depositing with the national libraries and for use as promotional material.

Recommendation

9. **Members are invited to:**
 - a) **note the summary of discussions with stakeholders at Paper 3.1B;**
 - b) **approve the final draft of the business plan at Paper 3.1A;**
 - c) **note the suggested communications timeline for the plan’s publication at Paper 3.1C**
 - d) **note that the Secretariat will identify a suitable date for publication in discussion with the Scottish Government, subject to the Chair’s final approval; and,**
 - e) **agree to a limited run of printed copies of the business plan and annual report.**

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

August 2016

¹ [s12\(8\) of the Criminal Justice and Licensing \(Sc\) Act 2010](#)

ANNEX

LIST OF INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS

Judicial / Legal

- Faculty of Advocates
- Law Society of Scotland
- Sheriffs' Association
- Part-time Sheriffs' Association
- Scottish Justices' Association

Justice and Delivery Organisations

- (Scottish Prisons Service and COPFS will be consulted as part of the statutory consultation with Ministers and Lord Advocate)
- Police Scotland
- Social Work Scotland
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Scottish Legal Aid Board
- CoSLA
- SCTS (the Secretariat is in discussions around attending a Board meeting during summer to provide an update on the Council's work at which the business plan could be provided)
- Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission

Other Public Bodies

- Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland
- UK Government (specifically in relation to the matter of competence to prepare guidelines for reserved matters)
- Sentencing Council for England and Wales
- Northern Ireland Sentencing Group

NGOs and Interest Groups (specific interest)

- ASSIST (Women's Support Project)

- Barnardo's
- BRAKE (the road safety charity)
- Children First
- Circle Scotland
- Environmental Crime Taskforce
- Howard League Scotland
- SACRO
- SCID (Scotland's Campaign Against irresponsible Drivers)
- Scottish Child Law Centre
- Scottish Environment Link (umbrella NGO organisation, membership includes RSPB and Friends of the Earth Scotland)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Women's Aid
- Social Work Scotland
- Rape Crisis Scotland (in light of the manifesto commitment to ask the Council to consider consistency in sentencing for sexual offences we think it would be useful to manage expectations and discuss future engagement)
- Victim Support Scotland

Academic institutions

- Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research
- Scottish Consortium on Crime and Criminal Justice