



**MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**21 February 2018, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, EDINBURGH**

**MINUTES**

**Members present:** Sheriff Norman McFadyen (judicial member) (Chair)  
John Scott QC (legal member)  
Sue Moody (victims expert)

**Attendees:** None

**Secretariat:** Graham Ackerman (Secretary)  
Valerie MacGregor (Communications Officer)

**Apologies:** None

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENQUIRIES**

1. One item was discussed by members but was determined to be confidential; it is therefore not included in the published minutes under Standing Order 8.3.
2. The Committee discussed matters of accessibility, particularly in relation to those wishing to provide their views to the Council, and agreed to research approaches taken by justice partners including the Scottish Government.
3. The Committee discussed recent media and Twitter activity. In particular, members considered whether and how the Council may be able to assist those asking non-straightforward questions on Twitter, given the limitations of the forum. It was agreed that, in appropriate cases, it may be helpful to direct such individuals to the contact page on the website to enable them to raise any relevant matters with the Council.
4. It was also noted that the number of Twitter followers has reached 1000.



#### **ACTION POINTS**

- **AP1** *Communications Officer to research the approach taken to accessibility by justice partners*

#### **WEBSITE TRAFFIC**

5. The Committee discussed statistics in relation to website traffic, including spikes in page visits and most frequently visited pages.

#### **ACTION POINTS**

- **AP2** *Communications Officer to provide website report on a regular basis*

#### **SENTENCING SEXUAL OFFENCES CONFERENCE**

6. The Committee discussed the organisation of the conference including invited speaker and delegate lists.

#### **ACTION POINTS**

- **AP3** *Communications Officer to update speaker and delegate lists*

#### **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES**

7. The Committee discussed website development including publication of an educational case study and development of other educational materials.

#### **ACTION POINTS**

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- **AP4** *Communications Officer to continue ongoing website development*

The Committee agreed that papers 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2, 3.1 and 3.2 should be marked as private.

**Scottish Sentencing Council**  
**February 2018**